

# COUNTRY MUSIC INQUIRER

**INSIDE:**

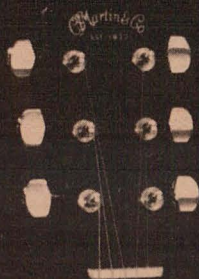
Reba McEntire, Alabama, Terri Gibbs, Joe Stampley,  
Dolly Parton, Shelly West, David Frizzell,  
Waylon Jennings, Ray Price, Ronnie McDowell



**NASHVILLE  
NEWS**  
by  
Bobbi  
Smith







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MAY, 1984

## COUNTRY MUSIC INQUIRER

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2



Roy Hall, right, talks with Grant Turner, veteran WSM announcer, on the progress of *The Inquirer's* television announcements on Nashville Network.

## Bluegrass Hall of Fame Opens Doors In Nashville

Nashville's newest attraction, The Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum that the entire bluegrass world has been waiting for, became a reality in April.

The Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum serves as a center for the preservation and promotion of Bluegrass Music.

The Museum contains a wide variety of artifacts from artists and musicians including articles of clothing, instruments, etc. that will be of interest to everyone visiting the museum.

Various rooms will be highlighted—such as the Bill Monroe Room containing many of his prized possessions and treasured mementos; the Country Music Stars Room including contributions from many of the top country music artists; the Hall of Fame Room—honoring 10 members who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.

The Bluegrass Boys Wall lists former and present Bluegrass Boys—the list reads like a Who's Who in Bluegrass Music, since many of the well-known artists in Bluegrass were at one time a member of the world famous "Bluegrass Boys" band such as Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, Don Reno, Stringbean, Ralph Stanley, Chubby Wise and Clyde Moody.

A "Walkway of Stars" will lead to the entrance of the Bluegrass Hall of Fame. A star in the "Walkway of Stars"

would ensure an artist of a permanent spot in the limelight and attention of the many fans who will visit the Bluegrass Hall of Fame through the years.

A bronze statue of Bill  
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## Country Music Inquirer Publisher Roy Hall Dies

Roy Hall, the colorful publisher and founder of *The Country Music Inquirer*, died of a sudden heart attack, Friday, March 2, 1984 in Nashville's St. Thomas Hospital.

Hall, who is credited with co-writing the legendary song, "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On" was more than just a magazine publisher. He was a man of many talents.

He was a pioneer in the rockabilly era having gained initial notoriety as a "country boogie" style piano player and singer. The first of his many recordings of this type was released to the public in 1949 on the Fortune label. In 1950, Hall moved to Nashville and recorded for the Bullet label. Among his biggest was a tune called, "Dirty Boogie".

Hall was a musician in the band of Webb Pierce and on the Grand Ole Opry in the band of Robert Lunn, "The Talking Bluesman".

He recorded with Pierce, Marty Robbins, Hawkshaw Hawkins and a many other country stalwarts.

Decca Records (now MCA Records) signed Hall to a recording contract in the 1950s and subsequently released 12 singles on him. Among them were his 1955 version of "Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On" which was recorded two years later by Jerry Lee Lewis. Hall often told the story of how he taught the song to Jerry Lee, also teaching him to play it on the piano. "Played it just like I taught him, too," said Hall on more than one occasion.

Hall's recordings, particularly the ones on Decca, are now regarded as the prototypes of rockabilly music. Among his more noted rockabilly tunes were the songs, "Three Alley Cats" and "Diggin' The Boogie".

After the rockabilly movement subsided, Hall moved into the area of business in the music industry. He formed Roy Hall Attractions, a booking agency, that catered to state fairs, concerts and nightclubs. He booked many of the big name acts in country music, but didn't just concentrate on name acts. He was one agent who always had a helping hand for the young acts who were trying to break into

the arena of big time entertainment. He has probably helped more young acts get started on the club circuit than any one other booking agent.

Hall, who was a recovered alcoholic, spent the latter years of his life helping others who tried to battle their way back from the glass grave of the bottle. He often sought out these people and gave them a helping hand when no one else would.

"It was the Lord who helped me get off the bottle. I just get them when they are down, clean 'em up, help 'em find a job, give them a little money and tell them how the Lord is the answer to their problems, not the bottle. It takes someone who has been there to know what another one on the bottle is going through," he often said.

Perhaps, it was this one characteristic that stood Hall out above the rest. He reached out to the unreachable and touched the untouchable. He cared when it seemed that no one else would or could.

Hall was a generous man with his time, his method of helping others and his manner of caring. He was never too busy to stop and talk or spin one of his tall tales that gave him the reputation of being one of the most colorful characters on Music Row. He liked to tell about the time he hired a young rock and roll entertainer, and then didn't like the way the entertainer played his music, so he fired him on the spot. That entertainer turned out to be the legendary Elvis Presley.

He often remembered when he hired Jerry Lee Lewis for \$15 a night to play and sing at one of the three nightclubs he owned in Nashville. It was there that he introduced him to the song he had co-written called "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin On". Hall taught the young singer how to rock that song out on the piano, laying down hot licks that is still copied by others today.

Hall got his feet wet in the music publication business by selling advertising for Country Hotline News in the late 70s. When the country music newspaper was sold and the new owners brought their own staff, Hall decided to start his own newspaper. He

*continued on page 18*



## Nashville Songwriters Association Pick Silbar, Henley For Top Honor

The members of the Nashville Songwriters Association International named Jeff Silbar and Larry Henley Songwriters of the Year at their 17th annual awards banquet held in Nashville recently at the Hyatt-Regency.

Song of the Year honors went to "Holding Her And Loving You," a hit for Earl Thomas Conley, and written by Walt Aldridge and Tommy Brasfield.

The hit writing team of Silbar and Henley are responsible for such renown songs as Janie Fricke's "He's A Heartache (Looking For A Place To Happen)" and Gary Morris' "The Wind Beneath My Wings." They edged out Townes Van Zandt, Kerry Chater, Randy Owens and Rory Bourke who were also contenders for the Songwriter of the Year honor.

Nominees for and recipients of awards in the Nashville Songwriters Association International are made up by the membership which is composed of songwriters. What makes the awards so meaningful to the recipients is they are selected by their peers in the industry.

Fourteen other songs and songwriters were also honored by NSAI. They are: Charles Black, Tommy Rocco and Rory Bourke, for "A Little Good News"; Deborah Allen, Rory Bourke and Rafe Van Hoy, "Baby I Lied"; Jeff Silbar and Larry Henley, "He's A Heartache (Looking For A Place To Happen)" and "The Wind Beneath My Wings"; Walt Aldridge and Tommy Brasfield, "Holding Her and Loving You."

Kerry Chater and Austin Robers, "I.O.U."; Vern Gosdin and Max D. Barnes, "If You're Gonna Do Me Wrong"; Barry, Robin and Maurice

Gibb, "Islands in the Stream"; Randy Owens, "Lady Down On Love"; Mike Reid, "Stranger In My House"; Lionel Delmore and John Anderson for "Swingin' "; Dennis Linde and Bob Morrison for "The Love She Found In Me"; Amanda McBroom for "The Rose"; Lewis Anderson for "Whatever Happened To Old Fashioned Love"; Rory Bourke, Glenn Ballard and Kerry Chater for "You Look So Good In Love."

Maggie Cavender, executive director of NSAI, gave a special tribute to the songwriters, calling them "the unsung heroes of the music business."

"The songwriter," she noted, "is that person who brings so much to the world because of his creativity, but gets so little recognition. Around the world tonight we are all standing proud and tall on our creative accomplishments."

Outgoing NSAI President Tom Long told the audience that "without a great song, even the greatest singer would be an unknown."

He further noted that "With a great song, even a mediocre singer can become a star. Where else can you walk down the street and see so many companies whose existence depends totally on the numerous publishing companies, performance rights societies, management offices and record companies that line Music Row."

Long also brought Ms. Cavender back to the podium and presented her an award for 15 years of dedicated services to the Nashville songwriters.

Don Wane, whose "Hello Country Pumpkin" won him accolades of awards several years ago, was installed as the new president of NSAI.



Grand Ole Opry member Bill Monroe and Commander Wayne Jones check out some Opryland USA items that were included in a "care package."

## Opryland U.S.A. Sends A Tennessee Reminder To Sailor

A letter from a Shelbyville, Tn. sailor off the coast of Lebanon prompted a package from stateside that the sailor never expected.

It included mementos from Opryland and the Grand Ole Opry, photos of Dolly Parton and Nashville's favorite candy, Goo Goo clusters.

Shelbyville native Boyd Keele, who is stationed onboard the Navy's USS Barnstable County off the coast of Lebanon, wrote to Opryland requesting videotapes of Opryland's musical shows. The letter indicated Keele, a chief petty officer, had been telling the rest of the ship's crew about Middle Tennessee and Opryland, and he wanted some show tapes to help illustrate what he has been talking about.

"This is the first time in the last six years that I have missed my annual visit to Opryland. I hold many fond memories of Opryland, and I'm sure the recordings would benefit all of us here in the Middle East," Keele explained.

After checking with Commander Wayne Jones, the commanding officer for Nashville's naval reserve center, for more details about Keele and the USS Barnstable County, Opryland decided to go a step beyond filling the sailor's request.

"We wanted to do more than just send him a couple of show tapes, so we enlisted help from throughout the company. As a result, we were able to mail him a complete Tennessee 'care' package that he can share with the rest of the ship's crew," said Nancy Holding DeKalb, an Opryland public relations representative.

As a result of Keele's inquiry to Opryland, three packages have been mailed to the crew of the USS Barnstable County. Included in the packages were ballcaps and pins from The Nashville Network; Opryland bandanas; several Grand Ole Opry posters; a "Grand Ole Opry Picture-History Book" that was autographed by numerous Opry members; Opryland show tapes from TNN Duplicating Services and a case of Goo Goo candy clusters from Standard Candy Company.

Grand Ole Opry member Bill Monroe was approached about the project before an appearance on the Grand Ole Opry. While talking with Commander Jones, the "father of bluegrass" said he would be more than happy to pen his famous signature in an Opry picture book for the sailor.

"Anything we can do for the boys away from home, I'll do in a minute," announced Monroe.

### Bill Monroe, continued from page 3

Monroe—The Father of Bluegrass Music—will be erected, as a tribute to this great man, on Bluegrass Hill which is located in the park directly behind the Museum. The walkway leading to the statue will be lined with song titles made famous by Monroe. Since many supporters of Bluegrass have wanted to help in some way, it was suggested that the Bill Monroe Monument could be the fans' special lasting tribute to the Father of Bluegrass.

The gift shop will include as a major part of it, a record shop specializing in Bluegrass Music, but carrying many of the top country albums as well. A complete line of Bluegrass albums will be carried in the shop and can be ordered by mail also. Anyone wishing to receive a catalog may do so by sending \$1 to the Bluegrass Museum. All orders will be mailed promptly.

Further information can be obtained by writing to the Museum at 2620 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, TN 37214 ... or by calling (615) 883-1962.

## Country Music Inquirer

*Covering the Country and Gospel Entertainment World*

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# Roy Hall — An Unsung Hero of Rock and Roll

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Roy Hall was considered to be one of the forerunners of the rockabilly movement. As such, he was a cult figure to those who study the historical impact of such eras. In *Creem* Magazine, 1980, the renowned rock and roll magazine, nationally known writer Nick Tosche wrote a feature on Roy, calling him one "of the unsung heroes" of rock and roll. Roy was delighted with the story and its factual reporting. We thought the readers of *The Inquirer* might enjoy reading the story. It is reprinted in its entirety from *Creem* Magazine.)

Roy Hall was born on May 7, 1922, in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, a backwoods town about 20 miles from the Tennessee line, near the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. An old colored man taught him to play piano, and to drink. By the time that he turned 21, Roy knew that he was the best drunken piano-player in Big Stone Gap, and, armed with the pride and confidence that this knowledge gave him, he departed the town of his birth to seek fame in those dreamed-of places beyond: Jasper, Slant, Nicklesville, Weber City, and Bristol.

He made it to Bristol and farther, pumping boogie-woogie in every Virginia, Tennessee, or Alabama beer-joint that had a piano. He played those pianos fast and hard and sinful, like that colored man who had taught him back in Big Stone Gap; but he sang like the hillbilly that he was. Wherever he went, the people told him that they had never heard a country singer quite like him, and they bought him drinks and gave him silver coins toward closing-time.

He organized his own band, Roy Hall and His Cohutta Mountain Boys (Cohutta was part of the Appalachians, in the shadows of whose foothills he had been raised up). It was a five-piece band, with Tommy Odum on lead guitar, Bud White on rhythm guitar, Flash Griner on bass, and Frankie Brumbalough on fiddle. Roy pounded the piano and did most of the singing; but everybody else in the band sang, too, especially the rhythm guitarist and the fiddler.

In the late 40's, Roy Hall and His Cohutta Mountain Boys headed north, through West Virginia, through Ohio, into Michigan. In 1949 Roy and the band cut their first records, for Fortune, a small, independent label located on 12th Street in Detroit. Over the next year, Fortune released six sides by Roy Hall: "Dirty Boogie," "Okee Doaks," "Never Marry A Tennessee Girl," "We Never Get Too Big To Cry," "Five Years In Prison," and "My Freckle Face Gal." Most of these recordings were slick hillbilly blues, similar to the sort of music with which Hank Williams had recently risen to fame. But the most successful of the



*Roy Hall was a prototype of rockabilly movement.*

bunch, "Dirty Boogie"—the closest that Fortune came to a C&W hit—was a wild, nasty rocker that foreshadowed much of what was to come to be musically in the South in the next few years.

In 1950 Roy traveled to Nashville, leaving the Cohutta Mountain Boys to fend for themselves in the wicked North. He cut two records there that year, for Bullet, one of Nashville's most active independent labels. Both of these Bullet singles, "Mule Boogie" and "Ain't You Afraid," were fine hard-driving things, but they failed to sell. After Bullet, he recorded for Tennessee, a small local company that had a national hit in 1951 with Del Wood's piano instrumental "Down Yonder;" but Roy Hall's piano brought no hits.

He opened an after-hours joint on Commerce Street in downtown Nashville called the Music Box (later renamed the Musicians' Hideaway). Here he played piano and drank, and, for a sweet change, made money doing so. In addition to liquor and music, Roy's club also featured blackjack and roulette, toward which diversions many of the Grand Ole Opry's most revered stars directed with moist and shaking hands their many-zeroed royalty checks.

One of Roy Hall's most loyal customers was Webb Pierce, who, following Hank Williams's death on New Year's Day 1953, became the undisputed king of the country singers. Pierce hired Roy as his piano-player, using him on most of his recordings in 1954-5. During this time, Roy also recorded with Marty Robbins and Hawkshaw Hawkins, a couple of successful cornballs whose music gave him even less room to move around in than Pierce's.

In the summer of 1954, Elvis Presley came to Roy Hall's club looking for work. "I was drunk that night, didn't feel like playin' piano, so I told 'im to

git up there an' start doin' whatever in hell it was that he did," Roy recalled to me last spring. "I fired 'im after just that one night. He weren't no damn good."

Toward the end of that same year, another young man came to the club looking for work. He was Jerry Lee Lewis, and Roy kept him on for a few weeks, until Jerry Lee decided to return home to his wife and son in Louisiana.

"I hired 'im for \$15 a night. He'd play that damned piano from one in the mornin' till daylight. We did a lotta duets together. He was still a teenager, and ever'body figured that when we got busted he'd be the one that the cop's let go; so ever'body give 'em their watches an' jewelry to hold for 'em, case the cops came. We got hit one night, he musta had 15 wristwatches on his arms. Sure enough he was the only one didn't git searched."

It was also in 1954 that Roy Hall and a black musician named Dave Williams took a trip to the Everglades that resulted in one of the classic rock 'n' roll songs.

"We was down in Pahokee, on Lake Okeechobee. We was down there, out on a damn pond, fishin' an' milkin' snakes. Drinkin' wine, mostly. There was a bunch of us down there."

See, this guy down there had a big bell that he'd ring to git us all to come in to dinner, an' I call over there to th'other part of th'island, I say, "What's goin' on?" Colored guy said, "We got twen'y-one drums"—see, we was all drunk—"we got an ol' bass horn an' they even keepin' time on a ding-dong." See that was the big bell they'd ring to git us t'come in."

Out of this legless colloquy came a song that began:

Twenty-one drums and an ol' bass horn,

Somebody beatin' on a ding-dong.  
Come on over, baby, whole lotta shakin' goin' on;  
Come on over, baby; baby, you can't go wrong.  
There ain't no fakin', whole lotta shakin' goin' on.

Webb Pierce arranged for Hall to sign a contract with Decca, and on September 15, 1955, Hall went into the studio and cut three songs for the label, including "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On." The record was released three weeks later, coupled with a cover version of Fats Domino's "All By Myself."

In its review of "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," *Billboard* said, "Webb Pierce's pianist takes stab in the vocal field and shows a highly distinctive, flavorsome voice." But the stab did not result in a hit.

Roy Hall continued to record for Decca until the summer of 1956. While a few of these recordings, such as his cover of Carl Perkin's "Blue Suede Shoes," were plainly uninspired, most of them were among the most fiery rockabilly records of the mid-50's. His "Diggin' the Boogie" contained one of the toughest and most unrelenting rhythms that had ever been recorded in the South. But none of this amounted to a hit record.

Bad luck seemed to follow Roy Hall. "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," which he had co-written under the pseudonym of Sunny David ("I was tryin' to git away from the income tax. They finally caught my ass, too") became a huge hit for Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy's ex-employee, in 1957, and Roy stood to make a good deal of money in royalties. But when the time came to collect, he was sued by his ex-wife, and the court awarded her his share of the royalties from the song. "And," Roy said, "Paul Cohen, who was the head of Decca, got me to sign a buncha papers when I was drunk, one o' them kinda deals, and I lost out that way. I worked for Webb Pierce for six years, an' he did the trick to me, too."

But Roy Hall kept on pumping his rockabilly music, and at the age of 58 he is still playing around Nashville and wherever else he can find a piano and a paycheck.

"I quit drinkin' in 1972," he told me, "an' I play rock 'n roll better 'n I did 25 years ago. Ain't none of these young fellas got nothin' on me when it comes to rockin' out, nosir. You git me a date somewhere, transportation an' a few bucks, an' I'll put out some good ol' rockabilly, knock 'em dead."

For he, if for no other reason, Big Stone Gap shall stand tall forever in a purple girdle of pride.



# Bobbi Smith



# in Nashville

• ALABAMA HANDS OUT \$256,000

• RONNIE'S IN THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS

• GO JIMMY GO

*I have just received the sad and numbing news that my beloved publisher ROY HALL has died. My phone rang early this morning to advise us that Roy passed on after suffering a heart attack at 2 a.m. this winter's day, Friday, March 2, 1984. My husband, James, and myself along with our daughter Barbara Dale will surely miss our friend and Barbie's "Uncle Roy."*

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE:** With all the awards that are given by the country music industry each year, it's unclear to the many thousands of fans throughout the U.S.A. why **HANK WILLIAMS, JR.** doesn't walk away with about half of them.

Hank once had nine albums in the **BILLBOARD** charts all at the same time. This is something no other singer that I know of has accomplished and it has gone unnoticed. Music industry people here in Nashville have suggested that perhaps it's because the most prestigious awards are not given to artists with obstinate and sometimes down-right unfriendly attitudes towards their peers, fans and promoters.

Or maybe it's because they also do not give awards for song lyrics that many industry people and serious music lovers find offensive. This might be a legitimate gripe against Hank's music . . . however, in reference to negative publicity afforded to Hank as a result of his loss in a recent Florida "no-show" court case, let me point out the fact that only two dates in the 1981-82 concert season were missed by **HANK AND THE BAMA BAND.**

In Oct. 1983, a court ruled against Hank to the tune of \$160,000 for a Sherman, TX nightclub owner who claimed the singer was drunk at a 1981 appearance. The judgement has since been **OVERTURNED**, (Hank said he was medicated for a severe cold, not drunk) but that bit of information never made news.

In mid January 1984, Hank lost a \$98,606 judgement in a Florida court for failing to appear at a 1982 outdoor concert. Hank said, "I thought the concert was cancelled because of torrential rain." Hank admits to plenty of roarin' back in the early 70s. It's a shame his bad-boy image still haunts him a decade later. Hank's new single "Strong Stuff" won't win him any awards, but it's doing very well on the national charts. He has just completed recording sessions here in Nashville for his new **WARNER BROTHERS** album produced by veteran **JIMMY BOWEN**. Incidentally, did you know America's number one country DJ **RALPH EMERY** introduced Hank for the very first time on the **GRAND OLE OPRY** stage (at the age of 14) and they still remain the best of friends.

**RICKY SKAGGS** and wife, **SHARON WHITE SKAGGS**, are the proud parents of a baby girl. Daughter **MOLLY KATE SKAGGS** was born at Nashville Memorial Hospital. She weighed seven pounds and nine oz.

"She has a head full of black hair and looks just like Sharon," said Ricky. "We are thrilled to death."

## SYLVIA SOON TO BE WED:

**SEXY SYLVIA** has a new shorter and stylish hairdo and will soon have a brand-new husband. By the time you read this, Sylvia will be **MRS. TOM RUTLEDGE**. They were married March 3. Tom is a guitarist in Sylvia's road band. We at the CMI all wish Sylvia and Tom a very happy and prosperous marriage!

## JERRY LEE KEEPS BUSY:

The Internal Revenue Service is still making plenty of trouble for singer **JERRY LEE LEWIS**. The IRS says Jerry is busy these days hiding his money and property to avoid paying \$1 million in income taxes! Well, Jerry Lee did turn himself in to the Memphis courts last and is now out on \$100,000

bail. This is such an unfortunate pickle Jerry Lee has found himself in, because, if convicted, he could spend up to five years in prison.

## NOW THE SCENE SHIFTS TO:

**ALABAMA'S** latest album effort "Roll On/Eighteen Wheeler" was guaranteed platinum status even **BEFORE** it was released! This means the darlings from Ft. Payne are assured to at least a million units in sales and will continue to make **TEDDY, JEFF,**

**MARK AND RANDY** rich men. The first single from the LP of the same name is a song (certainly not one of my favorites, but what do I know?) aimed at truckers, complete with tractor-trailer noises, C.B. talk and all, and again produced by everybody's favorite, **HAROLD SHEDD** of the **MUSIC MILL RECORDING STUDIO.**

By the way, **ALABAMA** donated \$26,000 to replace the Ft. Payne, Ala. high school bleachers that were



Ricky Skaggs



destroyed in a tornado; \$23,000 to the DeKalb County Library Board and \$20,000 to the DeKalb County Board of Education. Also 21 northeast Alabama volunteer fire departments received \$2,000 each and finally the "Philanthropist Four" gave \$145,000 in community grants.

The gifts came from the band's "JUNE JAM" in Ft. Payne last summer.

The big news is: **ALABAMA** will headline the 1984 (for the third year) **SALEM SPIRIT CONCERT SERIES** (paid for by R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO.) playing to audiences in more than 120 cities from coast-to-coast.

All four were in Nashville recently for a press conference and told us there will be no opening set this year because they wanted to perform their entire album on the tour and will play two and one-half hours of solid music. The tour began January 12 in Knoxville, Tn. and will continue through Dec. 2, with the final date in Orlando, Fla.

**CRYSTAL GAYLE** fans can look for Mama and five-month old **CATHERINE CLAIRE** in **GOOD HOUSEKEEPING'S** Mother's Day issue (May 13).

**LARRY, RUDY AND STEVE GATLIN** are still on vacation from the road (and will be until May). However, the brothers did join 40 other entertainers and sports figures in Lake Tahoe, Nevada for the seventh annual **JOHN DENVER SKI CLASSIC**. Parts of the event will air on NBC May 17. The Gatlins have also re-signed a long term multi-million dollar recording deal with **CBS RECORDS**.

Did you know **LEE GREENWOOD'S** new drummer in his road band is his handsome son **MARC GREENWOOD**?

The Ole "Storyteller" **TOM T. HALL** is writing an article (subject matter seems to be a secret) for an upcoming issue of the **SATURDAY EVENING POST**. It'll feature interviews with **LORETTA LYNN**, **MICKEY NEWBURY** and **MERLE HAGGARD**. Incidentally singer/songwriter Mickey Newbury dislikes performing locally, but has accepted several bookings in Australia.

#### **COOKING WITH MR. & MRS. RONNIE MCDOWELL:**

Certainly taking no back seat to her famous husband is **KAREN MCDOWELL** . . . the sexy blond wife of **RONNIE MCDOWELL**. I saw Karen and their two tow-headed daughters recently. Karen, indeed, is a vibrant personality in her own right with plenty of poise and savvy to go with it! Karen and Ronnie will soon be opening their restaurant in affluent Franklin (suburb of Nashville) that will not only offer Southern style cooking

but lots of **CLARK GABLE** artifacts, an old ice cream parlor, roll type piano and museum pieces from Ronnie's career.

#### **PHIL BAUGH AT THE WORLD FAMOUS HALL OF FAME MOTOR INN:**

Noted session musician and my friend **PHIL (BIG DADDY) BAUGH** and his band **THE HOT LICKS** have signed a contract to perform each evening at the world famous **SOUND-TRACK LOUNGE** at **THE HALL OF FAME MOTOR INN** through the spring.

Also, Miller Beer is sponsoring a live radio show from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. each Saturday after **THE GRAND OLE OPRY**, featuring name artists and song writers. The show is aired over **KZ COUNTRY** with long time DJ host **CHUCK HUSSEY**. The beer company is also promoting a vocalist contest (both male and female) running through May with a \$1,000 first prize! For more info call 615-255-4181.

If it's country stars you're wanting to gaggle at, you are liable to bump in to him or her in the dining room of the SoundTrack lounge!

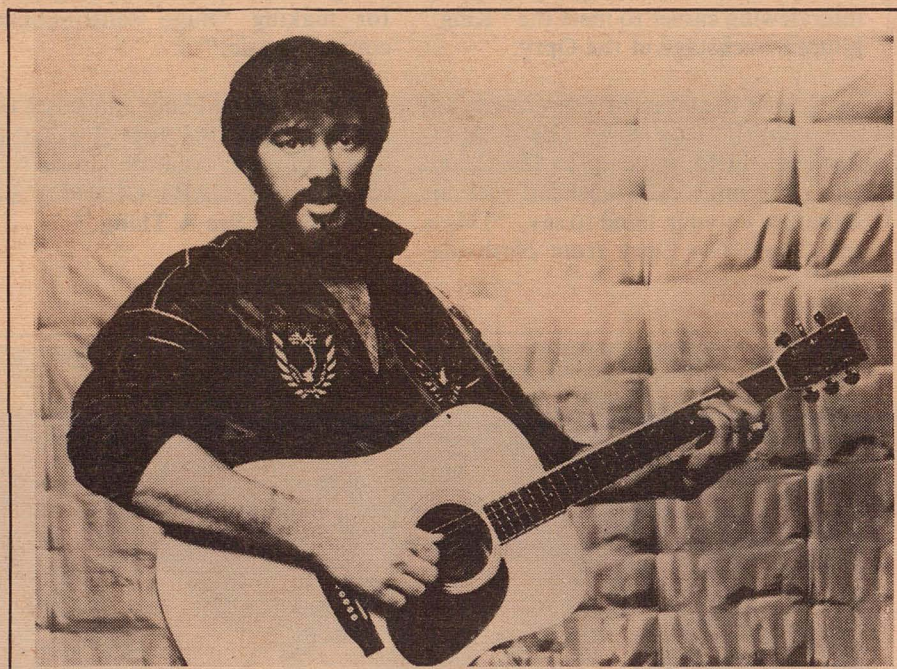
Just recently I visited with veteran songwriter "**WILD**" **BILL EMERSON** ("The South's Gonna Rattle Again" by Hank, Jr.); also looking ragged as ever, singer **JOHN ANDERSON** ("Swingin'") and his new bride, **JAMIE**; long-tall-sexy **TOMMY JENNINGS** (I'm Proud To Be The Brother Of My Mom's Other Son"); the ole Storyteller himself, **TOM T. HALL**; singer **JOHNNY LEE** (Looking For Love"); local favorite songbird **DIANE SHERRILL**; singer/songwriter and my special friend, **JERRY CHESNUT** ("Good Year For The Roses" by George Jones); singer/songwriter raven-haired **DALLAS CODY** ("I Am The Dreamer, You Are The Dream" by Conway Twitty); Grand Ole Opry Star **JACK GREENE** dancing with his pretty wife **JUNE**; The Sherriff, **FARON YOUNG** ("It's Four In The Morning"); veteran booker of the stars, **BILLY DEATON**; sexy smiling singer/guitarist **CHARLIE CARTER** from the Tammy Wynette band (he should have a recording contract of his own); curly headed singer **GENE WATSON** ("Farewell Party"); and the Ole Possum himself **GEORGE JONES** with his pretty wife **NANCY**. Jogging around the block in his bandana, shorts (with the cutest bony knees) and red sneakers to match was none other than **WILLIE NELSON**! I'll see YOU in Nashville!

#### **GEORGE IS STILL COUNTRY'S FIRST SUPER STAR:**

Speaking of super star **GEORGE JONES** . . . its been voiced privately here many times that George is one of, if not the hardest, artists to record in the studio! It seems George has a hard



*Debbie Randall*



*Ronnie McDowell*



*Tom T. Hall*



time remembering even the simplest of lyrics and requires take after take. Oh well, George is still one of my favorites and you can't argue with success!

### THE KING

For more than 42 years **ROY ACUFF** has spent his weekends in Nashville performing each Friday and Saturday night on the **GRAND OLE OPRY**, which is not only a unique experience, but a slice of real American tradition. Roy, also known as the "King Of Country Music," is a big part of that tradition. He is now in his sixth decade as a performer, but in addition to his lifelong interest in music, Roy has been involved in politics since the late 1930s.

In '44, he was nominated by the Republican Party to run for the Tennessee governorship, but didn't run. Four years later, he ran and made a strong showing, but didn't win. To this day, Roy's political awareness remains keen.

At 80, Roy is still vital and active and it was one of the highlights of my interviewing career to meet the "King" himself backstage at the Opry.

"I love the roar of the crowd, I'll never quit!" Roy vows. His greatest thrill is still to walk up to the Grand Ole Opry mike each weekend with his signature yo-yo in hand to say, "This is the Grand Ole Opry from Nashville, Tn!"

### RAY DIDN'T SEE A THING:

The legendary **RAY CHARLES ROBINSON** was born Sept. 23, 1930, in Albany, Ga. His father was a handy man and his mother took in washing. There was little money in the home but Ray says he had lots of love and personal hope. When he was six, the family moved to Greenville, Fla., and what doctors now believe was a variety of glaucoma affected Ray. Because the family couldn't afford proper treatment, Ray became blind.

Ray has said "people should never be bitter about anything. They should go out into the world and learn to fight for themselves." He recalls what his mother told him years ago: "You're blind, not stupid. You lost your sight, not your mind."

In 1954 Ray signed with **ATLANTIC RECORDS**. In 1955 he and his seven-man band recorded "I Got A Woman" and a legend was begun. In 1959 on **ABC RECORDS**, he recorded the immortal album, "Modern Sounds In Country & Western Music," and today he is recognized as "one of the greatest of the soul singers" and for making "huge contributions to country music."

Now, George Jones and Ray Charles have cracked the top five (at press time) of the country music charts together with **GARY GENTRY'S** song "We Didn't See A Thing."

### QUICK SHOTS OF CELEBRITIES:

If we are to believe the publicity department of **JIM REEVES ENTERPRISES** (headed by Jim's widow, lovely **MARY REEVES DAVIS**) **JIMMY ANGEL** is the hottest singer/actor to come down the pike since **BUDDY HOLLY**. We're not that convinced yet, although, we do believe that of all the new breed of stars, Jimmy is the most charming and talented by a half a nose or so. His star is definitely on the rise but his future is unpredictable at the moment.

Jimmy, whose favorite female singers are **JUICE NEWTON** and **LAURA BRANNIGAN**, and whose heritage include Apache Indian, was born in Memphis on May 16, 1962. A move from the cover of **TEEN** magazine, to the cover of the top country music publications, is what Jimmy (Blue Eyes) Angel has in mind as he changes his image (under the direction of Mary and producers **OWEN AND HAROLD BRADLEY**) from that of teen idol to a country singer.

Jimmy is also a so-so songwriter, a musician and entertains on stage like Buddy Holly never did. To date . . . Jimmy has had three chart records (he recently signed with Independent **STARGEM RECORDS**) on the **LAURIE** label "Wake Up America," "Teenager In Love," and "Thank You For Loving Me." With the likes of Mary, Owen, and Harold pushing and pulling at Jimmy . . . just maybe for once, a singer will live up to his publicity.

### FOR SALE:

The old **HANK WILLIAMS, SR.** home on posh Franklin Rd. is for sale by **MAC AND SHERRY SANDERS** (owners of **KZ COUNTRY** radio station and others). They are moving to the country to raise quarter horses and listen to the radio. Although Hank would hardly recognize the old home place since **AUDREY** enlarged and redecorated the mansion after his death, it's still one of the more popular homes visited every year by more than 100,000 tourist. You can buy it for a song, plus \$1.2 million.

### LOOKING BACK:

Last yer brought us a sad thinning of the ranks among country entertainers. We all lost some historic and well-loved entertainers, music industry pioneers and personalities including **JIMMY RIDDLE**, long-time beloved piano player for **ROY ACUFF**; **DEFORD BAILEY**, the first black man to play on the **GRAND OLE OPRY** the night the program got its name; original Opry player **KIRK MCGEE**, who played on the show right up until his last week on earth.

Guitarist and songwriter **MERLE TRAVIS** left us and Hee Haw comic **JUNIOR SAMPLES** passed away after

finishing the 15th season of the syndicated show. Singer **REX GOSDIN** was taken by death, as were former early **ELVIS PRESLEY** manager **BOB NEAL**; longtime influential talent agent **DICK BLAKE**; widely beloved publisher **BILL HALL** and veteran songwriter **CHUCK HOWARD, SR.** We will miss them all.

### THANKS FOR THE LETTERS:

Thanks for the nice letter from **NAOMI EAGLE** from **GREENVILLE, S.C.**, hoping you enjoyed the Marty Robbins reprint. Also thanks and warm wishes to **PAM ROBERTS** of **CEDAR RAPIDS, IA.** (where I lived for seven years and where my Mother **VELMA SCULL** and my brother **DALE SCULL** still reside). Pam is a big Barbara Mandrell fan and I would like to keep in touch with her, please write again. **TAMMY HUDSON**, of **SNYDER, TX.** along with an unidentified fan of Alabama's (but not of the snotty grey-headed man: (story in an earlier CMI issue) that travels with them, from **GREENSBORO, N.C.**

Best wishes on a good single to **CRAIG DILLINGHAM** ("Have You Loved Your Woman Today") and also thanks for the bumper sticker!

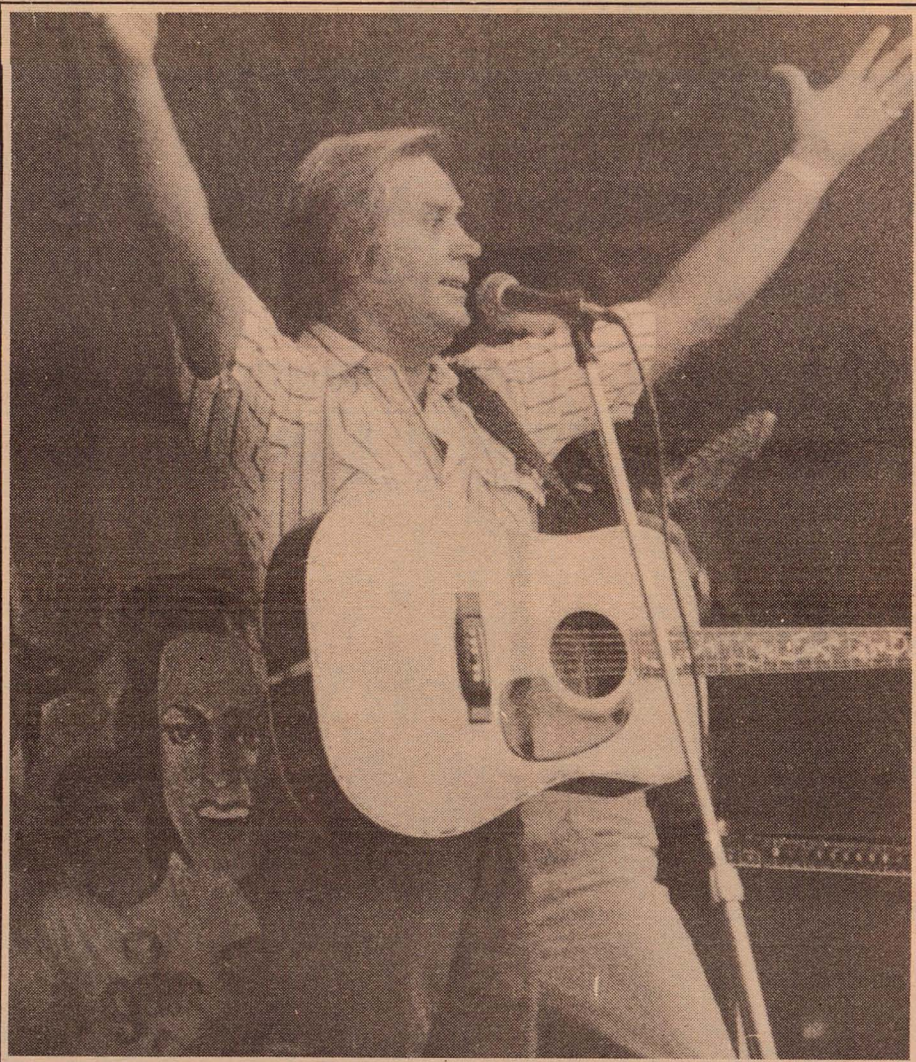
**FRAN GRAVES** writes to tell me about the biggest little star of 1984, **KEVIN MOORE**, age nine who is getting plenty of attention around town. Also **PAT AND LEON RICHARDS** and all the friendly folk with the **NEW SEASON BLUEGRASS** group. Received a newsy letter from **MARCI** at **MORTON DENNIS WAX** in **NEW YORK.**

"You're That Song" by singer **J. BIRD** is great, I loved it! However, I don't know how commercial it is . . . but, please remember I'm no music critic!

Received a nice letter from **ROY J. PREJEAN** from **LAFAYETTE, LA.** Roy mailed me a copy of **PERRY SERRETTES** newest single entitled, "She Left Thursday, Two Years Ago." You have a fine sound, good lyrics, but I believe the production is lacking. Best wishes to you both. I read and enjoy all the letters that I receive and will from time to time answer some in this column. Please write to me at 860 Murfreesboro Rd. # B-7, Nashville, Tn. 37217.

**FADE OUT . . .**  
(The End)

Country humorist **Jerry Clower** delighted his "biggest fan," nine-year-old David Byrd, who has been blind since the age of one. Clower met David two years ago, and surprised David by inviting him to his home in Yazoo City, MS.





Vince Gill

Vince Gill, the former lead vocalist with Pure Prairie League, has signed a recording contract with RCA Records announced Joe Galante, Nashville Division Vice President.

His debut single, "Victim of Life's Circumstances," was followed by the release of a mini-LP entitled "Turn Me Loose." This is his first solo recording effort and it was produced by Emory Gordy, Jr.

A native Oklahoman, Gill is a versatile musician who is proficient on guitar, fiddle, banjo, dobro, and mandolin. He first played and sang country music in a family band with his father and brother.

He also performed with several bluegrass groups prior to joining Pure Prairie League in 1979. His vocals, musicianship and songwriting were an integral part in the pioneer country rock country's rejuvenation.

As a musician and vocalist he has recorded with Rosanne Cash, Rodney Crowell, Guy Clark, Bonnie Raitt, Sissy Spacek, and Emmylou Harris among others.

"We are extremely proud to have Vince join us," Galante noted. "We believe he will play a major role in the future of country music."

"I've CA—Nashville was the nouse to be in," Gill said. "I'm thrilled to be here."



Recording artist/composer/actor/singer/script writer Alex Harvey showcased 16 new songs at the Stockyard in Nashville recently. Friends were invited to write their own verse to "Holy Spirit"—joining Alex on stage, left to right, Steve Gatlin; Rudy Gatlin; Harvey and Mae Axton.

Jeanne Pruett Moves To Top Billing

Top Billing International announces the signing of an exclusive booking agreement with Grand Ole Opry Star, Jeanne Pruett.

Jack Sublette, president of the Nashville-based booking agency said, "We are really excited about Jeanne, who is known throughout the industry as a veteran entertainer and a gracious lady. Whether you're buying talent for a concert, fair, club, park, or rodeo, Jeanne Pruett's self-contained act is one of the best and most consistent shows in the business."

Born and raised in Pell City, AL,

Pruett said she wrote her way into the music business.

She wrote exclusively for Marty Robbins for six years, starting in 1964, until she started recording with the help of Chet Atkins, who produced her first sessions.

Pruett is known for her hit singles, "Back To Back," "Temporarily Yours," and "Satin Sheets," which was also the title of her hit album which was voted best country album and best female album by Billboard Magazine.

★★★★★

"New Beginnings" is an appropriate title for David Wills' new RCA mini-LP as he begins the new year with a new phase in his career. "New Beginnings" includes: "Miss Understanding," David's current single that is rapidly climbing the charts, and his next single release "Lady in Waiting," as well as his recent top 20 hit "Eyes of a Stranger" and "Those Nights These Days."

David has recently completed radio and retail promotion tours covering the Southeast, Southwest, North Central and West Coast. Wills has just entered into the publishing business. He is partners in publishing with The Welk Music Group where he is an exclusive writer.

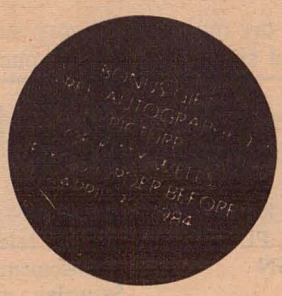
★★★★★

"Surprise" is also an appropriate title for Sylvia's just released. Sylvia's new "Scavullo" make-over appearance is stunning. The new hair-cut will "surprise" many fans in a delightful way of course!

Sylvia, who recently opened for Charlie Daniels at Lake Tahoe, has announced new management and booking: C.K. Spurlock, KS Productions (Kenny Rogers' booking agency) and The Halsey Agency will be handling her booking.

★★★★★

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# ON THE COVER Reba McEntire

Last year saw a tremendous amount of growth and diversity for Reba McEntire.

In January she racked up her first number one country hit with her single "I Can't Even Get The Blues." Soon after, she was given the unique honor of being the first country artist to have two consecutive number one records in 1983 when "You're The First Time I've Thought About Leaving" reached the number one spot in April. Both singles were released off her top five album "Unlimited" which showcased her rich, compelling voice through a variety of musical styles.

"I'm a country singer," Reba declares, "but I love to sing just about anything." This diversity was evident in her latest two singles, "Why Do We Want (What We Know We Can't Have)" and "There Ain't No Future In This," which were released off her album, "Behind The Scenes."

The excitement Reba now generates on the radio and on her records is also present in her live show. She's now touring with some of the biggest names in country music: The Statler Brothers, Ricky Skaggs, Don Williams, Charlie Pride, Mel Tillis, and T. G. Sheppard. Currently having her biggest concert season yet, Reba's career is in high gear and gaining momentum as country music fans become Reba McEntire fans.

It's no surprise that Reba is so talented, for singing and entertaining were a part of her upbringing and almost second nature for her. Her father, grandfather, and her husband, Charlie Battles, are championship rodeo cowboys, and Reba's mother was a singer of great promise.

"People used to say that my mama could have been a successful singer if

she had any breaks, but she was teaching school and raising a family. My mama always used to say to me, 'Reba, I'm living my life through you.'"

Every summer the McEntire family would pack themselves into an old

green Ford for their summer on the rodeo circuit. Traveling day and night, the four McEntire kids would sleep across the back seat, floorboards, and rear dash, whiling away the long daytime hours singing. Reba even got her first "professional" break at age

five one summer when her family was at the granddaddy of all rodeos—The Cheyenne, Wyoming Frontier Days.

"I was in the lobby of our hotel, and my brother Pake came up and told me that somebody had just given him some money for singing a song. I said, 'I can do that,' so I got him to sing 'Jesus Loves Me' with me right there in the lobby. Somebody came up and gave me a nickel. That just amazed me."

That memory sticks with her, and she is still striving to please the audiences. "when people come to be see Reba McEntire and the Chockie Mountain Band, I want to be able to really dazzle them, to give them their hard-earned money's worth."

Reba's recording career started to take off with her first album, "Reba McEntire," and has continued to gain momentum. Her second album, "Out Of A Dream," earned Reba greater success with singles such as "Sweet Dreams," "Runaway Heart," and a popular duet with Jacky Ward called "That Makes Two Of Us." Reba's third album, "Feel The Fire," finally brought her into the top ten with the single "(You Lift Me) Up To Heaven." That album also includes the hits "I Don't Think Love Ought To Be That Way" and "I Can See Forever In Your Eyes."

The momentum Reba's career has seen in 1983 is just the beginning. This year marks a new association with MCA Records, producer Norro Wilson, and her first album for the label. Her live stage show, television appearances, radio features, and tremendous support of her fans are proof positive that Reba is now reaching levels in her career that she richly deserves.



## Grand Old Opry Stars Help Raise Money

### GRAND OLE OPRY STARS DONATE TIME FOR CHARITABLE FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

Almost one-third of the members of the Grand Ole Opry — including Hall of Fame members Roy Acuff, Bill Monroe and Hank Snow — have donated time and talent to help produce a series of public service announcements to benefit the USO, the American Red Cross and other organizations.

The PSAs were videotaped for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a major effort directed at American military personnel to raise funds for the USO, the American Red Cross, the International Services Agencies and the National Health Agencies. The spots will be aired by the American Forces Radio and Television Service, which reaches more than three million Americans based around the world.

The television public service announcements were taped on a Friday and a Saturday night in the studios of The Nashville Network at the back of the Grand Ole Opry House while the Opry was in progress in the main portion of the building.

"It had been several years since the CFC has utilized country music stars, but I knew without hesitation that the Grand Ole Opry was the place to come work on the project," said Jim McDonald of Saturday House, the New York production firm that taped the spots.

While McDonald said he knew the Opry members would be easy to work with, he was surprised at how much effort the Opry members put into the project.

"Porter Wagoner came in on Friday night and was willing to read a prepared script right then. However, he asked

whether there was a jingle he could sing, too. We weren't prepared for that. We had an audio cassette of the jingle, but no charts. He just told us to wait until Saturday night to do his spot.

"Using only that cassette for guidance, he came back Saturday night and sang the CFC jingle a cappella. It's going to be a tremendous spot," McDonald said.

McDonald also got some special work from the Riders in the Sky and Del Wood. Miss Wood, guided by the same tape that Wagoner used, spiced up her spot with a ragtime version of the CFC jingle.

The Riders in the Sky in essence produced their own spot by incorporating a classic Western song, "Timber," into a spot for CARE. The CARE spot was for the "CARE for the Earth Campaign" that is designed to make the public think about

conserving resources and aiding nations with food-growing and reforestation projects.

Several Opry members taped "CARE for the Earth" spots, and McDonald said those would be provided to commercial television stations in the United States and Canada.

Other Opry members who taped PSAs were Ernie Ashworth, Jim Ed Brown, Lewis Crook, Jan Howard, Stonewall Jackson, Jimmy C. Newman, Stu Phillips, Jeannie Seely, Jean Shepard, Ricky Skaggs, Connie Smith, The 4 Guys, Billy Walker and Charlie Walker.



## Lane Brody Is Committed With Integrity To Her Work

When Lane Brody discusses music, her eyes begin to flash. Her emotional involvement with her vocal performances and her own compositions are at the core of everything she does.

Lane's sense of commitment to her music and the integrity that characterizes her work are the cornerstones of her exhaustive schedule. Constantly writing, performing or recording, Lane is currently in the studio with Chips Moman completing her long awaited debut album for Liberty Records.

Versatility is a tribute ascribed to many artists, but few actually personify the trait to the extent Lane Brody does. As a recording artist Lane has been represented on the charts four times. She's had solo hits with her self-penned "He's Taken," "More Nights," and her current smash, "Over You," from the highly acclaimed film, "Tender Mercies," and teamed with Thom Bresh on "When It Comes To Love."

Lane co-wrote "Hottest Night Of The Year," the title cut of Anne Murray's 1982 album and has writing credits for T.G. Sheppard (singing the title cut of the movie "Tough Enough") and Paul Anka's "You Spoiled Me."

Lane's extensive background includes a wide variety of well realized opportunities. She and Johnny Lee have teamed up to sing the theme song for a new NBC-TV fall series, "Yellow Rose" and she is co-star (with Mel McDaniels) of a new Thorn-EMI video production called "Country Ways." Back in 1979 Lane guest starred on the popular TV sitcom, "Taxi."

She also sings "Just A Little More Love" on the Emmy nominated CBS-TV film "Gift Of Life" and recorded songs for the CBS-TV movie "Country Gold," which starred Loni Anderson and co-starred Linda Hamilton as Josie, who lip-syncs to Lane's vocals.

Lane, you see, has always been a visionary. From the time she wrote her first song, "Through The Darkness" at age 12, to the most recent of her television appearances on shows ranging from "Merv Griffin" to "Dance Fever" and "Solid Gold," Lane has focused her attention on her goals and aspirations. Inspired by performers including Elvis, Aretha Franklin and Patsy Cline, Lane has earned a reputation as a creative talent who fuses both traditional and contemporary music values into a style uniquely her own.

As a young girl in Racine, WI, Lane's unquenchable thirst for writing,

singing and playing music logically evolved into the genesis of her career: doing talent shows, choir work, singarounds, solo gigs and ultimately fronting a nine piece blues band and four member multi style group.

Before moving to California, where she met her manager, Steve Wax (himself former President of Elektra/Asylum Records), Lane spent several years in Chicago singing jingles for a number of major national accounts including McDonald's, Juicy Fruit Gum and Kentucky Fried Chicken. This experience she acknowledges was crucial in refining her skills in the recording studio.

Lane is proud of her work and spends as much time as possible fueling her creative soul. She reads and enjoys many hobbies including sculpture, water color painting and needlepoint design. She excels in many outdoor sports and thoroughly enjoys being a health and natural food enthusiast.

Lane's strongest beliefs are in individuality and honesty. She maintains staunchly that one's existence should never be denied. In a world where patience and perseverance are as crucial as talent and luck, it's impossible to envision Lane being denied anything.



*Lane Brody fuses music into her own style.*

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# Terri Gibbs Has Turned Handicap Into Asset

In the spring of 1983, one of country music's finest voices, Terri Gibbs, joined forces with one of the industry's legendary producers, Rick Hall, to begin work on Terri's album project in Muscle Shoals, AL.

Terri's soulful delivery first burst into the Top 10 in 1980 with her smash hit 'Somebody's Knockin'.' It caused critics world wide to compare her to legends such as Billie Holiday, Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin. Even Sam Phillips (who is credited with discovering Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins) stated that Terri was the female singer he always sought but never found.

Terri also brought with her to Muscle Shoals a string of hit singles released since "Somebody's Knockin'" including "Rich Man," "I Wanna Be Around," "Mis'ry River," "Ashes to Ashes," "Some Days It Rains All Night Long" and "Baby I'm Gone." These were combined with Rick Hall's beltful of classic R&B hits to create the perfect chemistry for her most recent album: "Over Easy."

Terri was born blind June 15, 1954, but from the very beginning she has been touched by a special magic. At the age of three, her aunt sat at a piano with her, took her finger and showed her how to play a melody on the keys. When the aunt interrupted the lesson briefly and rose from the piano bench, little Terri astounded her relatives by immediately playing the melody back. Her parents knew at once that their daughter had a special talent. From that day on, Terri devoted herself to music.

Terri's father is a supervisor at Western Electric in Augusta, GA, and the family lives comfortably on a sizable piece of land near the suburb of Grovetown. Thus, the youngster was fortunate enough to be given her own

piano as well as a healthy rural upbringing. Her father gave her one other important advantage as well: the gift of music.

"My dad traveled a lot in those days," recalls Terri, "and when he'd come home on weekends, he'd always bring me some records. When I was four or five-years-old, I'd be reachin' out and hollerin', 'Where are my records?' "

Most children play with dolls and ride bikes, but Terri lived in a world of musical sounds: "During most of the day I'd be listening to the radio and playing the piano." She learned harmonies from the Everly Brothers and Patti Paige records. She learned rock from Elvis Presley and ballads from Pat Boone. Ray Charles taught her soul and her feeling for country started when she listened to The Grand Ole Opry on the radio on Saturday night.

The Gibbs family has always been deeply involved in gospel music. Terri insists she inherited her musical inclinations from her father's side of the family.

"My great-grandfather started the all day gospel sings down in Georgia. He had 10 children, one of which was my grandmother. They all sang and she played the piano for them, so my family understood the call of music."

It was, in fact, in gospel that Terri made her singing debut. It was in a church Bible school program. "I remember that day so well because it was also the day my little brother was born and I wanted to go to the hospital so bad to see him and my mother."

Terri had built a local reputation by the time she was in high school by winning talent contests, appearing on local stages and singing in school choruses. Yet, it was somehow fate that gave her



*Terry Sings  
With More  
Soul Than  
Most*

her first musical break.

Chet Atkins appeared at Augusta's Bell Auditorium and Terri managed to get backstage to meet him. He told her to send him a tape and this led to the production of her first demo. By coincidence, Atkins called her back on her eighteenth birthday, just days after her high school graduation.

"Through his encouragement, I went to Nashville where I sang for a number of people to get their opinions. That's what really started me as far as trying to pursue singing as a career," Terri explains.

Upon returning home to Augusta, Terri joined her first professional band, playing keyboards, singing backup and sometimes lead vocals for a group called Sound Dimension. This lasted through 1973.

"At first I did it just for something to do for fun. Then I got to thinking 'Gee, I've gotta figure out some way to make a living. I went to college for a couple of quarters, but I've never been much of a scholar.' I guess music was so much in my blood that I just wanted to sing."

She spent 1974 working on her songwriting and sending demo tapes to music publishers. In 1975 she got her own group together. This led to performing at Augusta's Steak and Ale restaurant.

While Gibbs was paying her dues singing 50 songs a night at the Steak and Ale, things were beginning to happen for her in Music City. A demo she'd made in 1974 came to the attention of Ed Penney in a publishing office in 1979. Penney, who later would produce Terri's first three albums on MCA Records, was impressed with her deep, alto voice. Despite his interest, he could find out little about Terri except that she lived somewhere in Georgia. Penney finally tracked her down and flew to Augusta to meet her.

Terri's initial success resulted in a long list of prestigious awards: The

Academy of Country Music's "Best New Female Vocalist" (1981). In addition, she has received several prestigious nominations, including a Grammy in 1982 for "Best Country Music Vocal Performance By a Female."

Besides industry awards, Terri has also received numerous personal honors. Among them, a new music building at her high school in Grovetown was named "The Terri Gibbs Music Building" and in 1982 and 1983, she toured extensively with her childhood idol, George Jones, and was invited onstage on a regular basis to perform duets with him.

When she is not touring or recording, Terri enjoys spending her time outdoors. "It's my favorite place," she says, "especially in the spring. I love to smell the roses or listen to the crickets at night. People miss out on a lot of things because they don't really hear. I always felt like I was real fortunate in my blindness because I saw things in others that sighted people don't see because they put so much stock in what people look like. I've met so many people who are beautiful on the inside. That's what counts."

Terri has always felt her blindness is as much an asset as a handicap. Her positive attitude, coupled with an unfaltering determination, fueled her spirit during the lean years of her career.

"I wanted to make it," she frankly admits. "It never occurred to me that I couldn't do anything yet that I've done . . . and I never did like for someone to tell me I couldn't do something unless there was a good reason. For me, being blind just isn't a good enough reason. I always wanted to go into music. That's what I was striving for. And I'm so glad now that I did!"

While she's talking this way, though, there is a faraway look on her face and a faint smile on her lips. Could it be that Terri Gibbs knows she's been touched by some special kind of magic?



Terri Gibbs signs autographs for fans. Shown with her from left, Rick Crabtree, road manager, and right, Micke Appel, band member.



# Grammy Awards Go To Alabama, Murray, Greenwood

Alabama picked up their second consecutive Grammy Award as Best Country Group during the 26th annual Grammy Awards show presented by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Science during televised proceedings from Los Angeles.

Alabama's award was given in the category of Country Performance By A Duo or Group for their hit, "The Closer You Get."

Anne Murray walked away with the coveted Grammy for her hit recording of "A Little Good News" in the category of Female Country Vocal and Lee Greenwood was the winner in the Male Country Vocal category with his charttopper, "I.O.U."

This was Murray's fourth Grammy win and Greenwood's first.

Gospel music's Amy Grant won her second Grammy in the category of Female Gospel Vocal for "Ageless Medley."

Bobby Jones, of New Life, picked up his first Grammy for the award-winning duet with Barbara Mandrell, "I'm So Glad I'm Standing Here Today." The award was given in the

category of Soul Gospel By Duo or Group.

The complete list of country and gospel winners and their categories are:

**Female Country Vocal:** Anne Murray, "A Little Good News."

**Male Country Vocal:** Lee Greenwood, "I.O.U."

**Country Instrumental:** "Firebal" by The New South (Ricky Skaggs, Jerry Douglas, Tony Rice, J.D. Crowe and Todd Phillips).

**New Country Song:** "Stranger In My House" by Mike Reid.

**Female Gospel Vocal:** Amy Grant, "Ageless Medley."

**Group Gospel Vocal:** Sandi Patty and Larnell Harris, "More Than Wonderful."

**Male Soul Gospel Vocal:** Al Green, "I'll Rise Again."

**Soul Gospel By Duo Or Group:** Bobby Jones and New Life with Barbara Mandrell for "I'm So Glad I'm Standing Here Today."



Anne Murray picked up her fourth Grammy, saying, "It feels as good as the first time I won."

**Inspirational Performance:** Donna Summer, "He's A Rebel."

**Gospel Performance, Male:** Russ Taff, "Walls of Glass."

**Gospel Performance, Female:** Sandra Crouch, "We Sing Praises."

**Country Performance By A Duo or**

**Group:** Alabama, "The Closer You Get."

The winners of the Grammy Awards are chosen by members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. The Grammy is considered to be the most elite of all awards given in recognition of artistic talent.

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## Alabama Rolls Towards Another Number One

RCA Records has just released one of the most anticipated albums of 1984, "Roll On", Alabama's fifth album for the label.

The current single "Roll On (Eighteen Wheeler)", title cut from the LP, looks to be the super-groups 12th consecutive number one.

Since signing with RCA in 1980 the four-man unit has rolled up gold record status with all four of their released albums achieving: "My Home's in Alabama" and "The Closer You Get" (reaching the platinum level) and "Feels So Right" and "Mountain Music" (climbing to triple platinum).

Twice named Entertainers of the Year by both the Country Music Association (1982 and 1983) and the Academy of Country Music (1982 and 1983) Alabama performed before an estimated 2.5 million concert goers last year. This included a sold-out concert at the University of Kentucky's Rupp Arena, a feat previously matched only by the Rolling Stones and David Bowie.

Thus far in 1984, Alabama has performed at two sold-out dates in Knoxville, TN along with an unprecedented three straight sell-outs in Greenville, SC. This year, the group's confirmed concert schedule includes dates in some 40 states, from Florida to Alaska, as well as several Canadian cities. This spring the group will again participate in the Salem Gold Tour, sponsored by the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

the "Roll On" single and by special telephone hook-up talked with lead singer Randy Owen about the new album. The Country Music Network reaches approximately 95 stations across the country.

Four selections from "Roll On" were debuted nationally on HBO/Cinemax Album Flash. The initial airing was also simulcast in stereo on selected radio stations across the United States.

The 30-minute program which aired on the cable program for a month featured songs on the show including: "Roll On (Eighteen Wheeler)," "I'm Not That Way Anymore," "When We Make Love," and "It's The End of the Lying." The musical selections were filmed at the group's rehearsal hall in Ft. Payne, Alabama. Album Flash also features interviews with group members and several residents of Ft. Payne about their reaction to Alabama's success.

The "Roll On" LP contains a variety of music with various themes, however, since the first single "Roll On (Eighteen Wheeler)" is tied to a trucking - theme, phase I of the point of sale material carries that emphasis. A special sales promotion has been tied-in with Truck Stops of America and American Trucker Magazine will be issuing an Alabama 1984 calendar with a color photo of the new LP, and a color poster of the group wearing American Trucker T-shirts. The promotional items will be distributed to over 2,000 truck stops across America. Merchandising themes will vary as to the different singles.

WSM's Country Music Network debuted

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# Joe Stampley Welcomes Different Sounds In Country Music

The more country music expands and the more sounds that find their way onto country records the happier Joe Stampley is.

"I think it's good that country music is all mixed up," Joe says. "A lot of people who grew up with pop music are listening to country now. If it still sounded like the ole '50s 'oh-darling'-I-miss-you-'cause-I-love-you-so,' they'd be turning that radio dial somewhere else."

Joe welcomes the new sounds because they provide a perfect setting for his own wide range of musical tastes, and they only serve to enhance his unique country-soul vocal style. He has proven his versatility throughout his career, and now he believes his fans expect new sounds from him.

"I've got the dedication of some followers who have been with me and country music for 10, 11 years, and they don't want me singing just one thing," he says. "I've had truckin' songs that were number one and I've had drinkin' songs that were number one. I've had middle-of-the-road songs that were number one. So I'm not going to be caught up in a bag of just doin' one thing."

Joe's Epic album, "Memory Lane," represents another new direction, but this time the "new" Joe Stampley is an updated, '80s version of an old Joe Stampley — the one who sang with one of the better known bar bands in the south in the 1960s.

"Memory Lane" contains five hit songs from that era (including two that Joe and his band, the Uniques, used to perform) and five newly-written songs that have the feel of the '60s.

To get that feel, Joe worked with a new producer, Kent LaVoie (who is also his next door neighbor), better known to '60s music lovers as Lobo, of "Me And You And A Dog Named Boo" fame.

"We produced the songs to sound like they were being played by a band rather than a studio group," notes Joe. "But it's definitely an '80s production. The piano may be chunking away like the 1960's, but the drums are out front like the records of today."

The 1960's were an important stage of development for Joe, but his musical career started a decade earlier, as a child in Springhill, LA. At the age of six, he learned to play the piano from his dad, who played guitar and piano. Both his parents sang harmony as a pastime while his grandmother played harmonica. His grandfather was a gospel music director.

At the age of seven, with the family now living in Baytown, TX, Joe met



*Joe is excited about the new sound of his music.*

the legendary Hank Williams at a local radio station. Joe told Hank he knew all of Hank's hits and then proceeded to demonstrate on the spot. Hank then passed on some professional advice: "Be yourself, sing like yourself, and later it might pay off for you."

Joe kept his ear to the radio, listening to the music of Hank Williams, Little Richard, Ray Charles, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley, and from those sounds — everything from soul to rockabilly — he began to develop his own style. Hank's advice paid off as early as the fourth grade, when his rendition of "I Ain't Got No Home" won the \$10 first prize in a school talent contest.

At 13, Joe talked his father into buying him a tape recorder, reasoning that it would help him to sing better and that he could cut audition tape for prospective record labels. Two years later, a local deejay, Merle Kilgore (who was later to write "Wolverton Mountain" and "Ring Of Fire"), got Joe a deal with Imperial Records and Joe's father drove him to California to record. He cut "Glenda" for Imperial and then moved to Chess Records, where he cut "Teenage Picnic," both of which achieved regional success.

Through high school, Joe had a second interest in baseball. His .335 batting average helped put him on the all-

district team for three straight years, but his heart was already long lost to music.

In 1961, he joined a five-man pop and rock group called the Cutups. With Joe singing lead, they performed at local functions in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, but it took several years before they built up a big enough following to allow the members to quit their day jobs.

"I've been strictly employed with music since 1964," says Joe. "Before that, I'd been a paper mill worker, a soft-water service guy, a candy vending machine guy, and encyclopedia salesman. I've done it all. But I was still playin' at night. I was payin' people to swap shifts with me at the paper mill."

In 1966, Joe's group, now called the Uniques, recorded a song by Joe and Merle Kilgore, "Not Too Long Ago," on the Paula label. The success of that record led to gigs on Dick Clark package tours, national television, and with some of the British Invasion bands. But by 1971 the Uniques were tired of the music business and they disbanded.

Meanwhile, Joe had been writing country songs. Then, as now, his philosophy was to let ideas come naturally rather than to attempt to

force them. "Sometimes an idea just comes to me," he explains. "I can't sit down and make myself write, but sometimes the circumstances are right and it just happens. I really can't explain it any other way."

Joe's songwriting brought him to the attention of publisher Al Gallico, who, in turn, brought him to the attention of ABC-Dot Records. After three unsuccessful singles, he hit with "Soul Song." Seven albums followed, which included the hit singles "Too Far Gone," "If You Touch Me (You Gotta Love Me)," "I'm Still Lovin' You" and "All These Things."

In 1975, Joe moved to Epic and teamed with producers Norro Wilson and Billy Sherrill, turning out 13 albums and such hit singles as "Roll On Big Mama," "Red Wine And Blue Memories," "If You've Got Ten Minutes," "Do You Ever Fool Around" and "Put Your Clothes Back On."

In 1979, Ray Baker began producing Joe and the hits continued, among them "There's Another Woman," "Whiskey Chasin'," "I'm Gonna Love You Back To Lovin' Me Again," "I'm Goin' Hurtin'" and "Backslidin'." Baker also produced the two duet albums Joe made with Moe Bandy, "Just Good Ol' Boys" in 1979 and "Hey Moe, Hey Joe" in 1981. The duet team won the Country Music Association "Duo Of The Year" award and the Academy of Country Music's "Group Of The Year" honors.

It was a Ray Baker-produced hit, a cover version of Johnny Rivers' 1966 smash hit, "Poor Side Of Town," that gave Joe the idea for the "Memory Lane" project. "I got to thinking that somebody who was 10 or 11 years old in '66 doesn't remember a lot of songs from the 1960's," he says. "But now those people are in their late 20's and they might really enjoy hearing some of those great old songs."

For the many fans who do remember the music of the '60s, "These songs will be bringing back a lot of great old memories," notes Joe.

As for the longtime Joe Stampley fans, Joe knew going into such a project that his fans would like it. "For years in my show I've been doing a medley of rock songs from high school heroes of mine — Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley — and the people love it," he explains.

Joe needed a co-producer for the project and he found one when Lobo pitched him the tune "A Winner Never Quits." "It had the old feel to it but it was a new song," notes Joe.

*continued on page 18*



# 50 Years For The Chuck Wagon Gang

For 50 years, the Chuck Wagon Gang has been singing their songs.

This year is the golden anniversary of the renowned Chuck Wagon Gang, a group who's name is a by-word in every home across America.

Through the years, personnel have changed, but the sound has always remained the same. It is a blend of rich melodies, unique arrangements and rich harmonies that is always unmistakably the sound of The Chuck Wagon Gang.

It is something special when you reach a milestone such as a 50th anniversary in the music industry. In an industry where stars are here today and gone tomorrow, to still be carrying the torch after 50 years is almost unheard of.

Their music is just as popular today as it has been in the past. Their record label, Copperfield Records, recently signed a distribution contract with the Benson Co. The first order to the Benson Co., for the Chuck Wagon Gang was for 6,000 albums. The next order to come in, barely a week later, was for 24,000 albums. The orders continue to pour in, numbering in the thousands.

The reason? Their music is timeless. They are timeless in their sound and untiring in their efforts to bring their best to the people of America in concert appearances and through their recordings.

From the grand stage of Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl and thousands of concert stages in between, the Chuck Wagon Gang has sung their songs. Those songs have always cheered the discouraged,



Anna and Mrs. D.P. (Mom) Carter



The Chuck Wagon Gang in 1954. From left, Dad Carter, Anna Carter Gordon, Howard Gordon, Rose Carter Karnes, and Roy Carter.

brought hope to the hopeless and renewed strength to the spiritual man.

There is no other country/gospel group in existence today who can boast of such a tremendously successful career as does the Chuck Wagon Gang. No other country/gospel act can be assured that their music is as much a part of Americana as the proverbial apple pie.

That rich legacy began in the early 1930s with the founding of the singers by D.P. (Dad) Carter, who called the first group the Carter Quartet. Dad called on three of his nine children to make up that first quartet. They were Rose, Anna and Ernest, who is now deceased. The trademark of that first group was the same as it is today, close sibling harmony and good songs with messages that are rich in value.

With the founding of their group, Dad sought out and found a Texas radio station, WYFO in Lubbock, which put them on the air and paid them \$15 a week. Their show proved to be the most popular on the station and served as a stepping stone for them.

Within a year, they moved to WBAP in Fort Worth, one of the largest stations in the nation. Again, station executives were pleased with the popularity of the singers. Morton Salt sponsored their Saturday afternoon program called "The Round Up."

At the same time, Bewley Flour also sponsored a male group of singers on WBAP who were known as the Chuck Wagon Gang. Within three months after affiliating with WBAP, the other group left the station and the Carters were asked to fill their slot.

They accepted the lucrative offer and were given the name the Chuck

Wagon Gang. Hence, began for the Carter family, a name and reputation that continues even today.

At that stage of their career, the Chuck Wagon Gang's repertoire consisted of all western songs with one gospel song featured. With more than 90 percent of their mail requesting gospel, the group soon switched to an all gospel format.

The popularity of the show—which lasted 15 years—and the Chuck Wagon Gang soared. At one point, Bewley Flour offered a free picture of the group to anyone sending in a coupon found inside a sack of their flour. More than 100,000 requests came in.

During the early days of their radio show, they came to the attention of noted pioneer record producer Don Law. He signed them to a recording contract with Columbia Records, thus setting the stage for one of the most successful recording careers in history.

The Chuck Wagon Gang's first recording session was November 25, 1936 in a small studio set up in a San Antonio hotel. Their recording career spanned more than 40 years on the same label, at one time making them the second most successful selling artist for Columbia Records. They have sold literally thousands of records, both albums and singles, in the United States as well as Jamaica, Sweden, Canada, The Netherlands and in most European markets.

Based on the popularity of their records via radio airplay and in the sales field, promoters began asking them to make personal appearances. Consequently, in the early 1950s, the Chuck Wagon Gang began limited 10 day personal appearance tours. Having been radio and recording artists only,



Gov. Jimmie Davis, Anna Gordon Davis and Roy Carter at fishing camp.



Anna and Rose

they found additional personnel was needed. It was at this time that Roy and Eddie Carter as well as Howard Gordon, Anna's husband, joined the Gang.

"The first tour was for Wally Fowler at a big all night singing in Atlanta, GA.," remembers Roy Carter, manager of The Chuck Wagon Gang. "We didn't know what to expect so we went there to sing out of our songbooks, just like we did on our radio show. We didn't think anyone east of the Mississippi had ever heard of us, but we were wrong. We had a huge crowd of fans in Atlanta that night. When we made arrangements to appear we thought we were to sing our program of western songs. We didn't know that they wanted all gospel. We didn't have a program of all gospel songs worked out."

The Chuck Wagon Gang took their hymn books with them on stage and sang an entire program from them. It was quite different for both them and the fans who were used to seeing planned polished programs from other gospel performers. Nevertheless, the Gang was enthusiastically received and this began a long history of repeat engagements on the gospel music circuit.

With the request for more personal appearances, the Chuck Wagon Gang began rolling towards a full-fledged show in the area of performing. The journey was to take them over thousands of miles and to stages like



Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl (where they performed to more than 22,000 people) the Grand Ole Opry, and to the silver screen via the movie, "Sing A Song For Heaven's Sake." They were also the co-hosts of their own TV show, "Gospel Round Up."

In September, 1955, the Chuck Wagon Gang was presented a gold record for their recording, "I'll Shout and Shine" which also commemorated their 25th year on Columbia. That same year, the National Disc Jockey Association voted them the number one gospel act in America. Their awards and honors are too numerous to mention. From The Bluegrass state where they were made Kentucky Colonels to Alabama where they have been named honorary Ministers of Music for the state to small hamlets like Talladega where they have been named honorary citizens, the legacy lives. Accolades continue to pour in for them on a weekly basis.

As a performing group, they are exceptions. They were the first to record the gospel standard, "I'll Fly Away" and made famous the standards "The Son Hath Set Me Free," "Looking For A City," "I Found A Hiding Place," and "I'll Meet You In The Morning."

"He Set Me Free," a song recorded by the Chuck Wagon Gang, became the melodic basis for the Hank Williams immortal song, "I Saw The Light."

Their music has touched countless millions during their career. For a while, they were in their third generation of Carters. Roy's daughter, Cayce Coopers, (who has now launched her own solo career), joined the act, replacing Rose who has retired. Anna is semi-retired from the gang. She travels only half of the tour, leaving the other half to be filled by her sister, Ruth Ellen Yates.

The Chuck Wagon Gang records for Copperfield Records under the direction of ace producer Jack Eubanks. The recording personnel of the Chuck Wagon Gang includes Roy, Patricia

Neighbors, Ruth Ellen, and Pat McKeehan, who has been a member of the group for 25 years.

Ironically, it was under Eubanks' direction and on this independent label that the Chuck Wagon Gang had their first ever nationally charted country music hit. "Keep On Keepin' On" was in the national country charts for 11 weeks, thus setting the stage for other country hits.

To define the success book for The Chuck Wagon Gang, one would have to look at the high standards of their music. It is simplicity with basic honesty. It is songs that touch and delight the hearts of both young and old. It is music that is judged on what it says and the underlying message, rather than the fad of the moment.

"We look at the songs we sing and make sure they are honest, simple, upright and with a good message," says Roy. "We always have been careful of the type song we sing. We judge a song on this merit: Is it clean, is it wholesome, does it say something and is it a song we can live with for the rest of our lives? If the answer is 'Yes' and it is symbolic of the Chuck Wagon

Gang stand of being positive, then we record it."

The Chuck Wagon Gang is not so much a group of personalities as it is a sound. The sound comes from having nine children in the family who have that sibling harmony. The sound is Americana, a little country, a little gospel and a little western.

The Chuck Wagon Gang sound is grassroots and basic honesty.

Legacies, such as the Chuck Wagon Gang, are often hard to live up to. The gang has not only lived up to theirs, but they are continually enhancing and setting new records. Not content to rest on their laurels, they strive daily to make each year better than the one before.

The Chuck Wagon Gang—the sound and the people themselves—are a special breed. They are God's gentle people, leaving those they meet and the places they go, better because they sing their songs.

They are Americana at its best.



Sister Betty, who worked with The Gang for a while being made up for a musical benefit.



One of their gold record presentations. From left, Rose, Roy, Dad, Columbia's Don Law, Howard and Anna.



Ruth Ellen, now sings and records with brother Roy in the Gang.



Roy, Anna, Rose and Jim recording for CBS in 1973.



Present Chuck Wagon Gang members, Pat McKeehan, Ruth Ellen, and Roy. Cayce — shown, has left to work as a solo act. She was replaced by Patricia Neighbors.



### Roy Hall, continued from page 3

started a country newspaper called the Music City Inquirer. He kept it for a year before selling it.

Three years ago, Hall formed the Country Music Inquirer. At first the paper was just distributed to the tourists coming into Nashville. He had little newspaper stands all over the city where tourists could buy them. Little by little he built the paper, changing its contents and format until he was satisfied that he was meeting a need no other publication was. He often spotlighted the old-timers in the business and devoted detail space to their careers.

Under Hall's guidance, the Inquirer was added to Capitol News Service for national distribution. It's sold nationwide and is one of the best selling publications carried by the national newspaper distribution company.

Hall never forgot what it was like to be a young artist trying to gain a foothold in the world of entertainment. He formed and was president of Judd Records, a label devoted to custom production and helping artists secure and outlet for their recorded material to be promoted nationally.

Hall was also the president and founder of The Talking Bible Co. He had the Bible transcribed on cassettes for those who were blind or wanted to hear the Scripture being spoken. National promotion on this company was through many radio stations, especially on WSM Radio with his good friend Grant Turner doing the commercials.

Hall will be missed by his many friends and associates. His bright smile, quick wit and willingness to stop and talk to everyone was characteristic of his personality. The Country Music Inquirer will go on and continue to build towards the dream that Hall had of it being the number one country music publication. He left the country music newspaper and his other business enterprises to his children, Mrs. Carol Palmer and Mrs. Watanna Armz.

Upon assuming the role of publisher, Mrs. Palmer said, "The Inquirer will go on. We will endeavor to continue putting out a fine paper each month because that is what Daddy wanted us to do. It was his dream of building this paper so that his family could work together on it."

Hall was buried in Nashville's Hermitage Memorial Gardens with full military honors.

### Stamperley, continued from page 15

Epic gave the Stamperley/Lobo team a three-song tryout, and it went even better than Joe and Lobo had planned. In one three-hour session they got four songs down — "A Winner Never Quits," "Double Shot (Of My Baby's Love)," "Put Your Head On My Shoulder" and "Could It Wait Until Forever" — and got the go-ahead to

complete the album.

The result is a showcase for Joe's versatility as a singer. His soulful, country style has a rejuvenating effect on every type of song, from the sincere balladry of "Put Your Head On My Shoulder" to the party rock of "Double Shot."

Joe has appeared on most major TV shows, including "Austin City Limits," "Hee Haw," "Country's Top 20," "Pop! Goes The Country," "Nashville Alive," "Dinah," "That Nashville Music," "The Country Sportsman," "The Bob Braun Show" and "The Razzzy Bailey Show."

Joe and his wife Jo Lynn, who handles much of his business interest, live in a Nashville suburb about 20 minutes south of Music Row. In his time off the road, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

## Dolly Parton Embarks on Promotion Tour

Dolly Parton may not be running in a presidential primary race, but she will be working as hard as any candidate when the RCA recording artist embarks on a whirlwind seven-city promotional tour in support of her newest album, "The Great Pretender."

The radio/retail tour, Parton's first in several years, begins in Kansas City and concludes in Dallas.

In order to achieve maximum visibility and impact in a limited amount of time, Parton will visit two major cities per day. The agenda at each stop will include a press conference as well as a reception for invited radio and retail guests.

Produced by Val Garay, whose studio credits also include Kim Carnes and The Motels, the album features a diversity of classics such as "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch)," "I Walk The Line," "Downtown," and "Elusive Butterfly." Also contained on the album are the title track, and her current single release, "Save The Last Dance For Me."

Parton's third major film, "Rhinestone," in which she co-stars with Sylvester Stallone, premieres in June.

The John Arnold Band, winners of the national competition for "The Wrangler Country Showdown," made several appearances in Nashville recently. The six-member group from Norman, OK was on WSMV's "Channel 4 Magazine" and joined Ralph Emery on The Nashville Network's live broadcast, "Nashville Now." The Stockyard also played host to the band.

JERRY CLOWER, country humorist and Grand Ole Opry star, has joined forces with three major corporations to benefit the Williamson County Humane Association.

Clower, widely known as the world's "number one fertilizer salesman," and his former employer, The Mississippi Chemical Co., have donated 10-tons of "Triple-13" fertilizer to enrich the grounds of the newly acquired property. Alabama Federated Co-operative donated the transportation of the fertilizer to CPS Industries in Franklin, where the company President, Bob Steltjes, arranged for free storage.

Tom T. Hall and his wife, "Miss Dixie," whose fund-raising efforts have been instrumental in the purchase and development of the property, were on hand to personally thank Clower for his contribution to the "growth" of the new shelter.

When questioned about the donation, Clower responded, "I love every dog, cat, pony, cow, and horse in Williamson County 'cuz my buddies Jerry Reed, Jim Ed Brown, Jeannie C. Riley, and Tandy Rice live there."

The new facilities for the Williamson County Humane Association are slated to be operational this year.

Gus Hardin, Billboard's 1983 New Country Artist of the Year, was in Nashville to tape "Nashville Now." Gus performed "Fallen Angel" and "I'll Pass" from her new LP.

US Magazine met with Gus in Nashville and went on-the-road to Terre-Haute, IN for a Gus Hardin/Hank Williams, Jr. date. This was all in preparation for a feature on Gus.

Gus and Dan Seals appeared on this year's Riverfest in San Antonio, TX. The Riverfest is a day of food and entertainment along the banks of the San Antonio River.

★★★★★

Earl Thomas Conley was reunited with Hank Williams, Jr. for a performance date at the Centralplex, Baton Rouge, LA. ETC took time out of his recording schedule to be a part of this special date with Hank.

★★★★★

Vince Gill has a new single on RCA titled, "A Victim of Life's Circumstances." Vince's new RCA-LP is his first solo effort since his Pure Prairie League days.

★★★★★

Deborah Allen has been busy on the television circuit. She recently appeared on: Merv Griffin, Solid Gold, Thicke of the Night, and American Bandstand. Deborah's current single is "I've Been Wrong Before."

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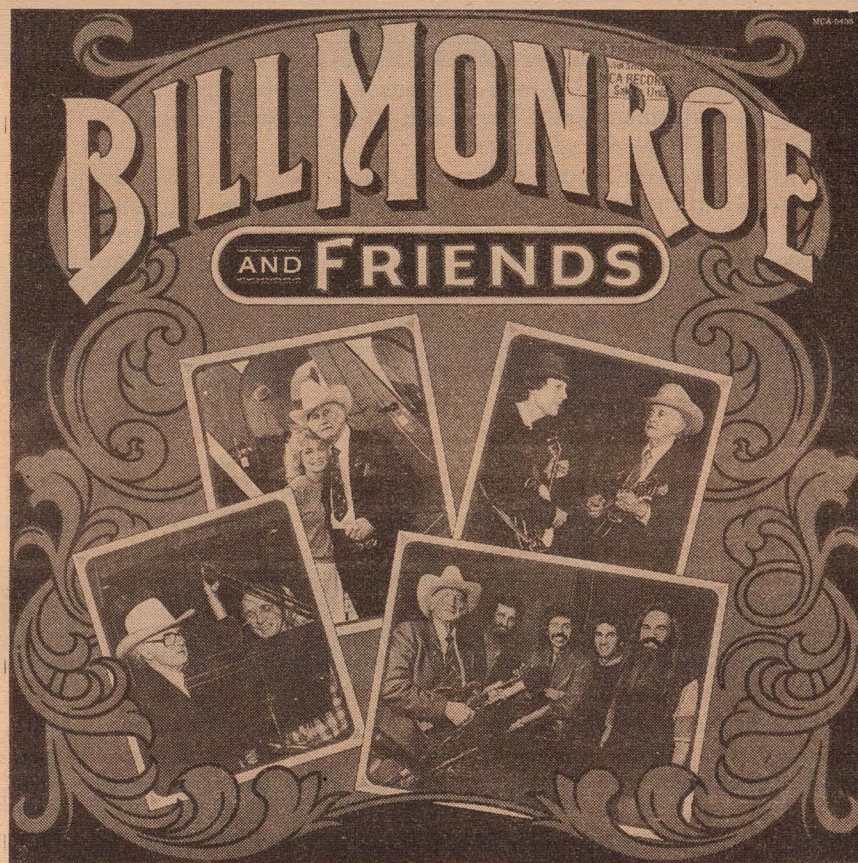


# ALBUM REVIEWS



**"SYLVIA" by Sylvia: RCA Records. Producer: Tom Collins.**

Except for two cuts, "Snapshot" and "I Never Quite Got Back (From Loving You)" this album by Sylvia is boring. This young singer sounds good on a couple of tunes, but after that forget it. All the rest sound the same. The song, "Bobby's In Vicksburg" sounds like a teeny booper. The third best bet in the album is "Winter Heart" which is done in a haunting arrangement that has you returning the needle to the grooves to hear it once more. All arrangements on this album are done by the terrific arranger Bergen White. Too bad he didn't have more quality songs to work with.



**"BILL MONROE AND FRIENDS": MCA Records. Producer: Walter Haynes.**

This album will go down in history as one of Monroe's best albums to date. Those friends on the album are none other than The Oak Ridge Boys, Ricky Skaggs, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Emmylou Harris, Barbara Mandrell, The Gatlings, John Hartford and Mel Tillis. To have all these greats together on one album is worth the price alone. Our favorites on the album are "Kentucky Waltz" with Emmylou; "My Rose Of Old Kentucky" with Barbara Mandrell, and "Old Riverman" with John Hartford. Ricky Skaggs ain't half bad with Bill on "My Sweet Darlin'," either.



**"KENNY ROGERS GREATEST 20 HITS": Liberty Records. Producers: Kenny Rogers, Larry Butler, Lionel B. Ritchie Jr., David Foster, David Malloy.**

If you don't want to buy another record all year, be sure that you do buy this one. It's chocked full of those Kenny Rogers favorites and offers a wide variety of musical styles. From the soft, flowing, "Lady" produced by Ritchie, to the uptempo sizzlin' "Reuben James" produced by Butler. All Kenny's biggest hits, and we do mean the most popular ones, are contained in this album. It also has the duets with Sheena Easton and Dottie West. A four star album in every sense of the word.



**"WHY LADY WHY" Gary Morris: Warner Brothers Records. Producers: Marshall Morgan, Paul Worley, Bob Montgomery, and Jimmy Bowen.**

What a super album! Every song on it is a classic and will stand the test of time. This album is a gem and a sure bet to stay on your turntable. It contains all the goodies, like "The Love She Found In Me," "Why Lady Why," "Velvet Chains," "The Wind Beneath My Wings" and "The Way I Love You Tonight." Gary has proven his great versatility as a singer and interpreter of songs with the great variety in this album. Here's one of the freshest and brightest young talents to be discovered in a long time. We shall look for more worthwhile albums like this one



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*The hit duo team of David Frizzell and Shelly West.*

## Frizzell and West Are Country's Hottest Team

There's no question that David Frizzell and Shelly West are today's hottest duo in country music.

A string of smash singles — "You're The Reason God Made Oklahoma," "A Texas State of Mind," "Husbands And Wives," "Another Honky Tonk Night On Broadway" and "I Just Came Here to Dance" — have carried them from virtual obscurity to the top of their field in barely two year's time.

They have been awarded the highest accolades in country music — including Vocal Duo of the Year for "Oklahoma," while the Music City News Awards likewise voted them Duo of the Year, while giving Shelly West the Most Promising Female Artist Award.

As a solo artist, David Frizzell has scored two tremendous country hits, "I'm Gonna Hire A Wino To Decorate Our Home" and "Lost My Baby Blues," both from his best-selling album "Family's Fine But This One's Mine."

Shelly has likewise cut her own album, featuring the single, "Jose Cuervo."

With both their solo and duo efforts selling like ice cream, at a state fair, David and Shelly travel and tour constantly, attracting SRO crowds wherever they perform. Recent Frizzell & West TV appearances include appearances on "Solid Gold," "Hee Haw" and a featured spot on the Dottie West Showtime special, "Full Circle."

Additionally, the two can be seen performing the song "Please Surrender" from their latest Warner Bros. release "Our Best To You," in the Clint Eastwood film, "Honky Tonk Man."

David and Shelly have triumphantly inherited the birthrights of their justly famous family names.

Davis is a member of the legendary Frizzell clan. Older brother Lefty rivaled Hank Williams in the 1950's as the premier honky-tonk song stylist. He is still widely influential and imitated today, six years after his untimely death. Younger brother Allen Frizzell is known by country fans for his tribute album to Lefty, for his ABC and Sound Factory singles, and for being Dottie West's guitarist and front man. David is one of the most respected country vocalists in the business and has a long list of career accomplishments capped by his duets with Shelly West.

David began his career when he was just a teenager by touring with his legendary brother Lefty. Before his 18th birthday, David had landed his first recording contract; and he spent

the last 1950s and early 1960s cutting country and rockabilly tunes for Columbia. Following four years of military service, he re-signed with the label. In the years that followed, he recorded the first country version of "L.A. International Airport" and "I Just Can't Help Believing" and developed an enviable reputation as a Las Vegas headliner at the Golden Nugget.

In the early 1970s David recorded for producer Ron Chancey at Cartwheel Records. But Buck Owens' admiration for his vocal abilities brought him to Capitol where he enjoyed a second series of chart successes. Owens also featured him in his road show and made him a regular on his syndicated television show. Frizzell polished his skills further with singles on RSO and MCA Records in the late 1970s.

Despite these accomplishments, not a single record label around was interested in "You're The Reason God Made Oklahoma" after its intended label Casablanca West, closed down. Luckily, producer Snuff Garrett believed in the record so strongly that months later he played a cassette of it in his car for Clint Eastwood. Eastwood's affection for solid country soul singing is well known, and he insisted that the song be included in his "Any Which Way You Can" soundtrack. In short order, "the song nobody wanted" was a smash.

At least part of the credit for that must go to Frizzell's singing partner Shelly West. As incredible as it sounds, "Oklahoma" was the first record she ever made. But like David, she comes by her talent from a distinguished birthright.

Shelly is the daughter of Dottie West, one of country music's finest songwriters, most moving vocalists and best entertainers. Her father is steel guitarist Bill West. Her talented brothers Kerry and Morris are rock musicians, the latter in Atco Records' critically-acclaimed band Thunder. Again, it's family of musical heritage.

All of Dottie's kids have toured with their famous mother, Shelly in 1975-77 as a back-up singer. Allen Frizzell was working for Dottie then, too. He and Shelly became partners and headed west in 1978 to try their wings independently as musicians.

In California, they teamed up with David, and the blue-ribbon country offspring soon had one of the finest shows in the land.

The unusual combination of Shelly's husky alto and David's honky-tonk baritone clicked. The man with the hurt in his voice and the smile of a cowboy, paired with the young willowy

*continued on page 30*

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# Music Row Happenings and Personalities

**Crystal Gayle** has just completed the first Las Vegas appearance in more than a year. She was the headline attraction at the MGM Grand Hotel.

Crystal, who was included on "Most Glamorous Expectant Mother" list is featured in the Mother's Day issue of Good Housekeeping with her daughter, **Catherine Claire**.

★★★★★

**Bandana's Jerry Fox** recently became engaged to Nashville's **Candace Jones**.

★★★★★

New parents are **David Bellamy** and wife, **Janet**, with the birth of their fourth son, **Dustin Milton**.

Also Bellamy Brothers' guitarist **Billy Crain** and wife, **Karen**, have a new son, **John Douglas**.

★★★★★

**Johnny Lee** and **Lane Brody** can be heard each week singing the theme song of NBC's "The Yellow Rose." They also made their first duet personal appearance on WSMV's Channel Four Magazine, recently.

Johnny is also preparing a Nashville Network special that will be filmed at Gilley's.

★★★★★

The Nashville Network recently bestowed a very special honor on **Conway Twitty**. For the past year, TNN has been busy tallying both write-in and phone-in votes in their viewer pole for favorite male and female performers. Conway was overwhelmingly chosen by the viewers as top male.

Who does movie/television star **Clint Eastwood** sing with when he wants to put out a single? None other than **T.G. Sheppard**.

The two paired up for a single, "Make My Day" which has become the catch phrase for Eastwood's current movie success, "Sudden Impact." The single was also added to T.G.'s "Slow Burn" album.

★★★★★

**Gary Morris** recently made an appearance on New Zealand's "That's Country" television show. He made such an impression that he was promptly invited back, thus becoming the only artist to ever be invited back.

**Emmylou Harris** has also been invited to appear on the show. In between she will visit the Warner Brothers Records offices in Sidney and Melbourne, Australia.

★★★★★

The Mothers Against Drunk Driving have approached Warner Brothers artist **John Anderson** to do some public service announcements for their cause based on his current single, "Let Somebody Else Drive."

★★★★★

**Willie Nelson** will headline Radio City Music Hall in Manhattan, May 11-16. This show marks his first debut at Radio City and his first live engagement in New York City in many years.

★★★★★

The 88th Cheyenne Frontier Days in Cheyenne, Wy., is scheduled July 20-28. It

will feature **Waylon Jennings**, **Jessi Colter**, **Mickey Gilley**, **Charley McClain**, **Eddie Rabbitt**, **Louise Mandrell** and **Mel Tillis**.

★★★★★

**Porter Wagoner** and his new all girl band will be touring Europe in August.

★★★★★

Tessier Talent has announced the addition of **David Rogers**, **Dave Dudley** and **Buckskin** to their roster of talent.

★★★★★

**Kenny Rogers** and CBS Entertainment have signed a long term contract which includes all forms of entertainment.

The deal includes a Christmas special with Kenny in December and a new "Kenny Rogers as The Gambler" mini-series. This will mark the third time that Kenny has starred as The Gambler.

★★★★★

**Reba McEntire** has signed for booking with ICM in Nashville.

★★★★★

Country International Records' **Joy Ford** has signed a booking agreement with Bojac Talent.

**Timothy Thomas** has just signed a recording contract with Country International Records. He is booked through Bojac, also.

★★★★★

**Eddie Rabbitt** was a guest on the Lynda

Carter television special. He and Lynda dueted on "You and I."

★★★★★

**Webb Pierce** recently had major surgery at Nashville's St. Thomas Hospital. Hospital spokesman said part of Webb's colon was removed, but that he came through with flying colors.

★★★★★

Nashville Network recently did a special on **Tootsie Bess**, of **Tootsie's Orchid Lounge**. Among the performers who appeared in tribute to the colorful lady were **Willie Nelson**, **Kris Kristofferson**, **Charley Pride**, **Roger Miller**, **Tom T. Hall** and **Daryl McCall**.

★★★★★

The **Judds**, that mother and daughter team which has everyone talking, traveled to Raleigh, Charlotte, San Antonio, Dallas, Amarillo, L.A., San Francisco and Atlanta for a series of showcases for RCA Records.

★★★★★

The **Pinkard and Bowden** album, "Writers In Disguise" has just been released and features guest appearances by such stars as **Michael Murphy**, **Anne Murray**, **The Osmonds**, **Glen Frey**, **Don Henley**, **Dan Fogelberg**, **Jackson Browne**, **David Carradine**, **Jennifer Warnes**, **Steven Railsback**, **David Summerville** and West Coast promotion man **Bruce Hinton**.

★★★★★

**Jim Ed Brown** and his eight piece show, featuring **Diane and Christy**, set a record with their winter tour of five weeks and 24 cities.

## SANDI PATTI IS BIG WINNER IN DOVE AWARDS

Talented songstress **Sandi Patti** walked away with multi-awards during the first national televised Dove Awards as presented by the members of the Gospel Music Associations.

The Dove Awards are the most coveted awards given in the gospel music industry. The awards ceremony is held annually in conjunction with Gospel Music Week in Nashville which also includes seminars, panel discussion, workshops and luncheons sponsored by SESAC, BMI, and ASCAP.

Ms. Patti was the surprised recipient of the Gospel Music Artist of the Year, and also picked up Doves for Inspirational Album of the Year and as Female Vocalist of the Year.

Russ Taff was named Gospel Music Male Vocalist of the Year, duplicating the honor given to him just weeks earlier by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences when he was presented a Grammy Award for the same honor.

This year's inductees into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame were **Hovie Lister** in the Living Category. Lister is known as the founder of the Statesmen Quartet and is now a member of The Masters V.

The Rev. **Clevant Derricks** was inducted into the Hall of Fame in the Deceased Category. He was the writer of such gospel standards as "When God Dips His Pen Of Love In My Heart," "Just A Little Talk With Jesus" and "We'll Soon Be Done With Troubles and Trials."

**Lanny Wolf** was a first time winner, but he picked up two Doves for Gospel Songwriter of the Year and his song, "More Than Wonderful" was given a Dove as Gospel Song of the Year.

**Phil Driscoll**, who performed on the Grammy telecast, won his first Dove in the instrumental category, breaking pianist **Dino's** five year winning streak.

The complete list of the winners in

the 15th annual Dove Awards are:

**Gospel Song of the Year:** "More Than Wonderful," **Lanny Wolfe**.

**Gospel Songwriter of the Year:** **Lanny Wolfe**.

**Gospel Music Male Vocalist of the Year:** **Russ Taff**.

**Gospel Music Female Vocalist of the Year:** **Sandi Patti**.

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Contemporary:** "Side by Side," **Imperials**.

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Inspirational:** "More Than Wonderful," **Sandi Patti**.

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Traditional:** "We Shall Behold The King," **The Rex Nelson Singers**.

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Contemporary Black:** "Come Together," **Bobby Jones and New Life**.

**Gospel Music Album of the Year:**

**Traditional Black:** "We Sing Praises," **Sandra Crouch**.

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Instrumental Artist:** **Phil Driscoll**.

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Worship and Praise:** "Celebrate the Joy."

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Musical:** "Dreamer."

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Children's Music:** "Music Machine II."

**Gospel Music Album of the Year: Design:** "A Christmas Album—Amy Grant."

**Gospel Music Album of the Year by a Secular Artist/Artists:** "Surrender," **Debbie Boone**.

**Gospel Music Artist of the Year:** **Sandi Patti**.

The show was televised live over the Christian Broadcasting Network and was hosted by **Glen Campbell**.



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## Ray Price: A Real Legend Today

Ray Price is one of the real legends of country music today.

As an entertainer, he's earned the recognition that's come to him through awards, citations, record charts, personal appearances, television performances and consistent record sales.

But Ray has also brought sophistication to country music. As an innovator he has broadened its creative base, its very style and substance, beyond the expectations of most and the talents of many. His latest release on Warner Bros./Viva Records, "Master Of The Art," is aptly titled indeed.

Consider: for eight years Ray Price was named number one country singer in America by Billboard Magazine. He has been honored with Grammys, CMA Awards and many other literally too numerous to mention. He has appeared on scores of television shows, including "Mike Douglas" and "The Tonight Show" and scored with a long string of smash singles. "Release Me," "Crazy Arms," "Heartaches By The Number," "Danny Boy," "Make The World Go Away," "Touch My Heart," "Night Life," "For The Good Times," "I Won't Mention It Again," — these are only a few of the songs Ray Price has made country classics.

If any man has expanded the horizons of country music, given it a new depth and sensitivity, that man is Ray Price. Over the course of three decades, he has simply refused to accept the concept that country was a limited form of musical expression. It's that conviction which has made him one of the most beloved and imitated artists in the field today.

Ray was born in Perryville, TX, in Upshure County, an area known for spawning great county talent. He spent his formative musical years in Dallas, before enlisting for active duty in the Marine Corps during the Second World War. In 1951, he recorded his first single on Bullet Records and subsequently joined The Hank Williams Show. Shortly thereafter, he was signed to Columbia Records.

Throughout the remainder of the decade, Ray Price consolidated his position as country music's most talented vocalist. In 1952, he became a regular member of The Grand Ole Opry and that same year recorded two hit singles, "Talk To Your Heart" and "Don't Let The Stars Get In Your Eyes." Two years later, he had three more country smashes under his belt, including "Release Me" and "I'll Be There."



Ray Price is happy about his career.

But it was the year 1956 when Ray really came into his own, creating a trademark sound on hits like "Crazy Arms," and "I've Got A New Heartache." What began that year was to carry this singer to new heights of acclaim throughout the 50s with songs like "My Shoes Keep Walking Back To You," "Curtain In The Window," "City Lights," "That's What It's Like To Be Lonesome," "Under Your Spell Again," "Same Old Me," "Heartaches By The Number," . . . the list

goes on and on.

The 60s and 70s came and went, trailing behind them a fresh string of Ray Price country chart toppers. "One More Time," "Heart Over Mind," the self-penned "Soft Rain," "Walk Me To The Door," "Burning Memories," "Make The World Go Away," were all added to the catalog of priceless Price hits. Perhaps his biggest single ever, "For The Good Times," came from an

*continued on page 30*

## Waylon Jennings Has Earned "American Hero" Title



"The only thing I ever fought for—all I wanted to leave for anybody—was to always remember that there's more than one way to do something and that's *your* way. A person has the right to do it, to try something his own way, at least once."

Waylon Jennings, *Penthouse* interview with Chet Flippo

He's an original. A legend as tough as a rebel and as tender as his ballads. Above all, he's a man who has risen above adversity to earn the accolade "American hero."

His history begins in the small prairie town of Littlefield, in west Texas. Waylon first cracked the music business at age 12, when he began playing talent shows and guesting on the local radio station. In the late '50's, he headed for the nearest big town, Lubbock, and met up with a local boy, Buddy Holly.

Holly was impressed enough with Waylon to ask him to play bass for him, and even produced and played guitar on Waylon's first record, a two-sided single released in September, 1958. Holly, whose influence can be heard in the music of artists ranging from The Beatles to Elvis Costello, had a great impact on Waylon's formative years as a musician.

Waylon went on the road on Holly's 1959 tour, and at one point gave up his seat on a small plane to J.P. Richardson ("The Big Bopper"). That charter plane crashed near Mason City, Iowa, claiming all lives aboard, including Buddy Holly.

Stunned by the tragedy, Waylon returned to Lubbock, deejaying and playing Texas honkytonks with his own band, The Wailors. The country music establishment was aware of him by then and in 1965 Chet Atkins, then

heading RCA Records/Nashville, signed him to the label and Waylon moved to Nashville. Though a steady stream of hits began to flow, he felt confined within the narrow and rigid boundaries of the Nashville recording industry. Seeking a creative outlet for his frustrations, he attended nightly sessions at recording studios around town, writing and picking with the likes of Tompall Glaser, Billy Joe Shaver, Kris Kristofferson, Billy Swan, and Willie Nelson.

Word got out and interest was aroused in the industry, and after Waylon convinced RCA in 1972 to give him artistic control, he began recording the kind of music he **wanted** to record.

The change was obvious as the songs came out: "Ladies Love Outlaws," "Lonesome, On'ry and Mean," and "Honky Tonk Heroes."

In 1976, those rumbles of change cranked to a roar when "Wanted: The Outlaws" burst out of Nashville. A compilation of 11 songs by Waylon, Willie, Glaser, and Jessi Colter, it was the first Nashville-originated LP to gain RIAA certification as a platinum album (1 million units sold), and is now double-platinum. "Dreaming My Dreams" and "Are You Ready For The Country" came in at gold and "Ol' Waylon" marked his second platinum. "I've Always Been Crazy" made history again—the first album to debut at number one on the country

*continued on page 30*





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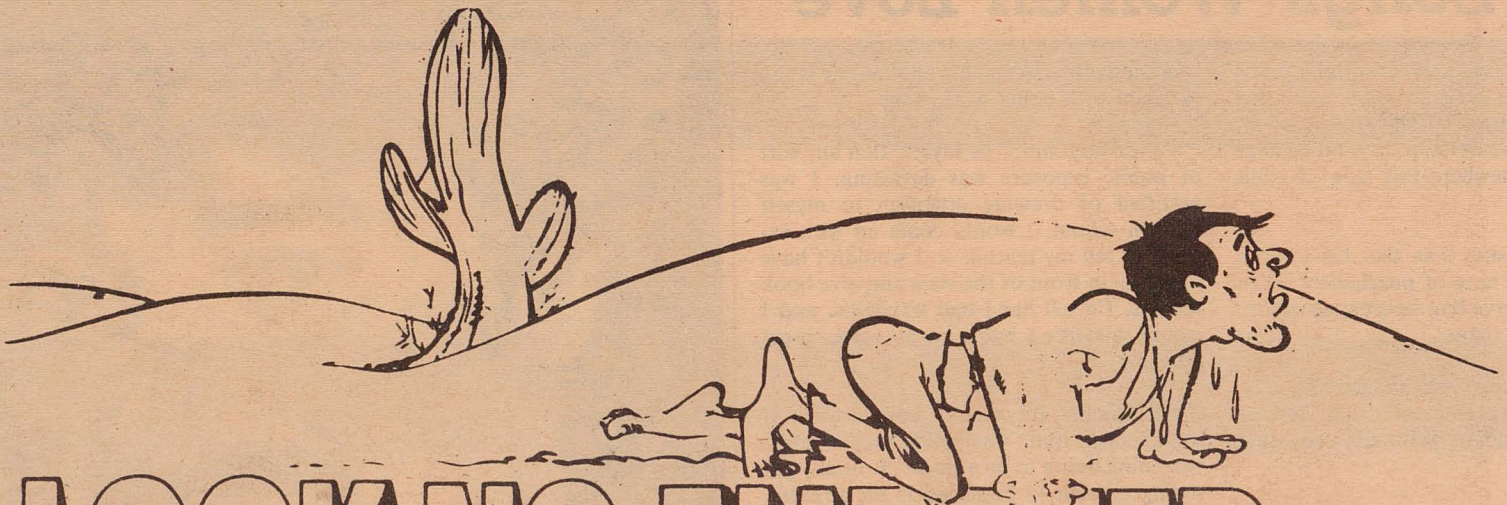




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# Ronnie McDowell's Songs Are Songs Women Love

Ronnie McDowell is the best thing that's happened to love songs in years, exploring as he does that great middle ground of affection that lies somewhere beyond teenage trauma and somewhere this side of adult desperation.

It's not surprising then that his smooth voice takes on a note of puzzlement when interviewers observe that he sings mostly to women or about them.

"Of course I sing to the ladies," he says, looking genuinely confused that anyone should find this odd. "Who else can I sing to?"

Certainly the women aren't complaining. His peppy tribute, "Older Women," earned him his first No. One on the charts in 1981—and the more light-hearted "You're Gonna Ruin My Bad Reputation," gained him his second No. One in 1983. But McDowell's string of lyrical appreciations is nothing new. As a matter of fact, his second song ever to make the charts was "I Love You, I Love You, I Love You," back in 1977. And it was so compelling in its sincerity that it took him to No. Five.

McDowell says he has always known what songs were best for him, but has spent a long time bringing out the image which most honestly portrays himself to his fans.

"I've finally found the look I've wanted," he declares. "What it basically amounts to is looking more mature and being more confident as a performer. I'm at ease letting my songs and voice carry my message, not the gimmickry of staging and costuming."

One of 10 children born and raised in America's Strawberry Capital of Portland, TN, Ronnie used to pass his childhood days standing in front of a record player, listening and singing along to the popular sounds of The Platters, Ernest Tubb, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley.

Listening to a wide variety of musical styles while growing up enabled him to develop wide-ranging vocal abilities although he concedes that his confidence

was a long time in coming and that he is still afflicted with bouts of shyness.

"I was so timid," he says, "that any sort of public exposure was devastating. I was petrified of drawing attention to myself even in school. I would come up with excuses to tell my teacher so I wouldn't have to get up in front of the class and give book reports. I'd tell her I had laryngitis, and I would talk like I had a raspy voice to get out of it."

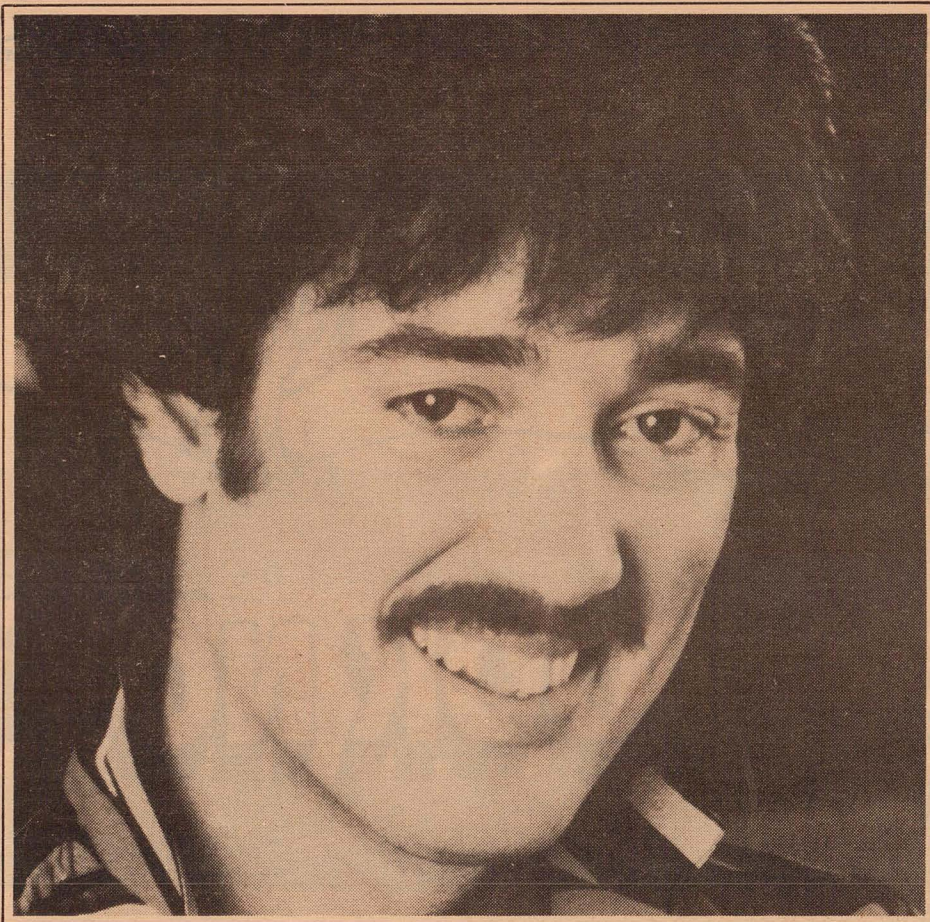
Fortunately, there was a counterforce at work, and that was McDowell's overwhelming desire to be a singer. It finally got strong enough to brush aside the shyness. At 17, while he was in the Navy serving in Vietnam, McDowell made his first public appearance as a performer, singing to a standing-room-only crowd of 3,000 shipmates on the makeshift stage of the U.S.S. Hancock.

After his discharge, Ronnie put the bread on the table via a job in commercial sign painting, earning extra income with his oil representations of Tennessee structures and landscapes. In the meantime, he pitched his songs and performing talents to the Music Row offices in Nashville.

In 1976, he signed his first recording contract with a small independent label called Scorpion Records, and at the age of 26, he hit big with "The King Is Gone." Since, McDowell hasn't had to look back.

With his signing to Epic Records in 1979, McDowell has recorded under the guidance of Buddy Killen, one of Nashville's most consistently successful producers and president of the city's largest publishing company, Tree International. This union of talent has resulted in seven fine albums, "Rockin' You Easy," "Lovin' You Slow," "Love So Many Ways," "Going, Going...Gone," "Good Time Lovin' Man," "Love To Burn," "Personally" and his latest "Country Boy's Heart."

Besides his recording and concert activities, McDowell has taken the time to do TV Themes (for the 1982 fall season, CBS-TV's "Filthy Rich") and continue his



Ronnie McDowell has sex appeal in his singing and his looks.

songwriting. He estimates that he writes 75% of his own material, and he has had songs cut by Louise Mandrell and R.C. Bannon, Roy Drusky, Jean Shepard, Billy Walker, and the Wilburn Brothers.

On the personal side, Ronnie is happiest in his hometown of Portland. He stays busy

collecting antique cars and it's not uncommon to see the country star cruising down the city's main street in a '52 Chevy pickup. He personally designed his home—built like a cabin—and his business office, which resembles an old time General Store. He takes time to paint portraits of the coun-

*continued on page 30*

## Jerry Clower Signs Pact With Mr. Transmission

Grand Ole Opry star Jerry Clower will serve as corporate spokesman for Mr. Transmission, Inc. in its marketing and advertising campaign for 1984-85, it was announced today by Joseph R. Dockery, president of the Company.

Clower, for 10 years voted "Country Comic of the Year," will be featured in television, radio, and print media as well as Mr. Transmission in-house publications/merchandising and will make personal appearances at various nationwide company franchises.

"We're delighted to be able to announce this new association," said Dockery. "Not only is Jerry Clower a great entertainer and salesman, but he's a great person, whose reputation for honesty and integrity fits right in

with our corporate intent. Jerry Clower is loved by millions, not just for his wonderful sense of humor, but because he's a devoted family man who leads a commendable life in his church and community.

Clower joined the Grand Ole Opry in 1973 and has been a top record seller for MCA Records for 14 years. A graduate of Mississippi State University, he's been selected "Alumnus of the Year" by the school and was named "Man of the Year" by the Mississippi Press Association. Clower is a host on the nationally syndicated "Country Crossroads" radio show.

He is also co-host on the "Country Crossroads" television show and has written two books, "Ain't God Good" and "Let the Hammer Down."

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# Darrell Clanton Is Moving To The Top Fast

If you are a member of the inner circle of Nashville's country music scene you break a warm smile and simply say that young Mr. Clanton is fast becoming one of country music's major creative artists.

Born in Indianapolis, IN, Darrell began playing guitar at the age of nine and soon joined his father's band that played Sunday country music shows around the city.

Darrell's routine was to wear a cowboy outfit and sing Hank Williams' songs. By the time he was in his middle teens, Clanton was a member of a band playing clubs six nights a week while he was still attending high school.

From the age of 17 until he was 22, Clanton was a member of a trio "Just Us Brothers Band," which became a fixture on the southern tour circuit. It was at this point in his career that Darrell moved to Nashville and met music publisher Pete Drake.

Drake signed Clanton to a contract with his Window Music Publishing Company as a songwriter.

The next step in Darrell's career upsurge would make a scene in a Hollywood motion picture... Clanton and some musicians are in a studio recording his new songs for presentation to major recording artists.

"Hee Haw," TV's top rated syndicated show, is taping in another studio in the same complex. Jim Halper, president of Crescent Management is visiting his wife Victoria Hallman on the "Hee Haw" set. Halper walks by Clanton's recording session, drops in, loves Darrell's music and signs him to a management and recording contract, and away we go!

Darrell, who plays guitar, bass and banjo, as well as sings, lives in La Vergne, TN, a suburb of Nashville.

He says "I'm just a small town boy." But this small town boy has big objectives. They include having the number one hit records as both singer and songwriter. Nobody in Nashville music's inner circle will disagree with Darrell's ability to reach those objectives.

When Clanton's debut single "Lonesome 7-7203" was shipped to radio stations the response was overwhelming. It bulleted its way to the top of the charts in Billboard Magazine. Darrell headlined two nights at the Alabama State Fair and received tremendous response. He has also appeared on the new "Jimmy Dean Show," and made his debut appearance on the Grand Ole Opry, as guest of Justin Tubb, the writer of

"Lonesome 7-7203."

Right now Darrell's songs are major hits in Norway, Sweden and Germany.

Bjoro Haalund, Norway's top country singer, recorded Darrell's song "What Can I Do To Get Me Back On Your Mind?" and it has gone gold in those countries.

B.J. Thomas has just recorded one of Darrell's songs for his next album. He also has five tunes on a set of albums recorded by 10 life-time Grand Ole Opry members titled "Stars of Grand Ole Opry"; with artists such as Stonewall Jackson, the Wilburn Brothers, Charlie Louvin, Jeanne Sheppard, Ray Pillow and Cal Smith.



*Darrell Clanton is one of Country's newest acts.*

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**Waylon, continued from page 24**

charts and the first country album to ship gold. In all, he has a double platinum, four platinum, and eight gold LP's, with "Waylon's Greatest Hits" bringing home a triple-platinum.

Says Waylon, "I love all types of music. I'm a fan of writers." He is also a masterful interpreter of music. His "Music Man" LP, released in 1980, showcases this talent of his. "What About You" and "Waltz Across Texas" acknowledge his roots, while Jimmy Buffet's "He Went To Paris" and Steely Dan's "Do It Again" indicate the routes he has taken. The LP includes two original songs, "It's Alright" and "Theme From The Dukes Of Hazzard," and a blues-based Harlan Howard penned "Nashville Wimmim." Released in 1981 was "Leather and Lace," an album of duets recorded with his wife Jessi Colter. He narrates the weekly television show "The Dukes of Hazzard" and hosted a BBC-TV documentary on the vanishing American cowboy.

Waylon's "Black on Black," a solo effort, was Waylon at his best, with "Chips" Moman (Luckenbach, Texas) handling production. The album included "Shine" from the motion picture, "In Search of D.B. Cooper," and a classic Waylon and Willie duet, "Just To Satisfy You." It was followed by "WWII" which included "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay," a Grammy nomination. Waylon's latest album,

"It's Only Rock 'n Roll," just released shows yet another dimension of this multi-talented superstar.

Waylon is part of a vanishing breed, both a singer and writer of country music with a history and integrity that stand the tests of time. Labeled an outlaw for taking his stand that the "established" way might not be the only way, he has blazed trails for many singers, musicians and writers and perhaps forever changing the face of country music.

Like the American cowboy, he is his own man — an American symbol — and there will never be another like him.

**Ray Price, continued from page 24**

LP by the same name that stayed on the charts for an amazing two years-plus.

Throughout this time, Ray continued to be the hottest concert attraction on the country circuit, as well as an always-in-demand television entertainer. The career of this artist is full of horizons to be reached and surpassed. He opened his own booking agency in Dallas and continues to write, sing, record and perform with a full calendar of international commitments.

"Master Of The Art" is Ray Price's newest album and it stands with some of his finest work to date. Produced by the legendary Snuff Garrett, it features

Ray's latest single "Willie, Write Me A Song." With "Master Of The Art" Ray has proven once again that he is an artist for all times and seasons. There's no question that the 80s will find him on top, right where he belongs.

**Frizzell & West****continued from page 21**

redhead with the heart-stopping vocal wail, resulted in instant success. Their debut Warner/Viva LP, "Carryin' On The Family Names," included one of 1981's mightiest and most memorable singles, "You're The Reason God Made Oklahoma," its bluesy top-ten follow-up "A Texas State Of Mind," and the duo's year-end smash, "Husbands And Wives."

It was followed by "The David Frizzell & Shelly West Album," featuring yet another crop of country hits, including "Another Honky Tonk Night On Broadway," and "I Just Came Here To Dance." Now, with "Our Best To You," Frizzell and West have reached new heights in classic country music with a collection of 10 new songs produced by Snuff Garrett and Steve Dorff. "Our Best To You" features the hit single "Please Surrender," as well as stunning renditions of "Cajun Invitation," "Another Dawn Breaking Over Georgia," "Jukebox Serenade," and an unforgettable "When You Wish Upon A Star."

With a brand new, expanded stage show, featuring two bands and solo spotlights for David and Shelly, the duo is set to stake out 1984 as the year of Frizzell & West.

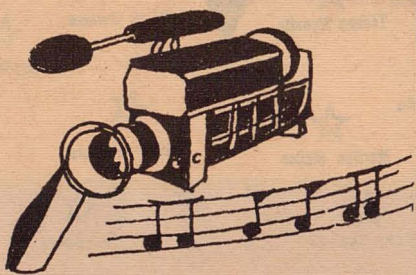
With a brilliant new album and a glittering track record, they should have no problem at all.

**Ronnie McDowell****continued from page 28**

tryside and considers himself a genuine history buff on the Civil War. He is simply a gifted man leading a gifted life.

With his time-and-again demonstrated sex appeal, it would be easy to go for the flash. But McDowell is strictly down-to-earth in his outlook. "I like to write, I like to sing, I like to entertain,...and in that framework, I try to please my audiences. Each audience is unique, you know. Each audience has a different personality. So in each concert I try to find—to identify—that personality and play to it—sing to it—entertain it in the way that pleases it most."

Kenny Rogers performed a Long Beach, CA concert in conjunction with the Food Bank. Rogers asked everyone attending the sold-out concert to bring canned goods that was collected and distributed to 90 agencies. Kenny recently did 12 shows in Australia, three in New Zealand and two in Hawaii.

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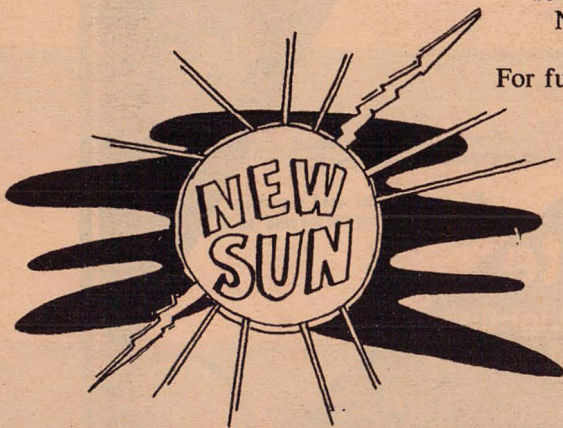
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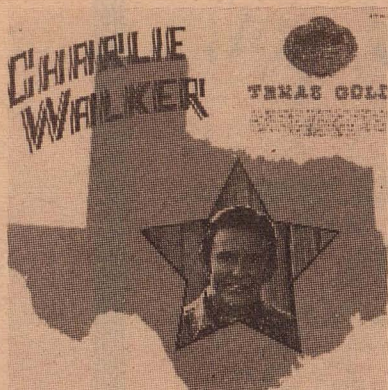
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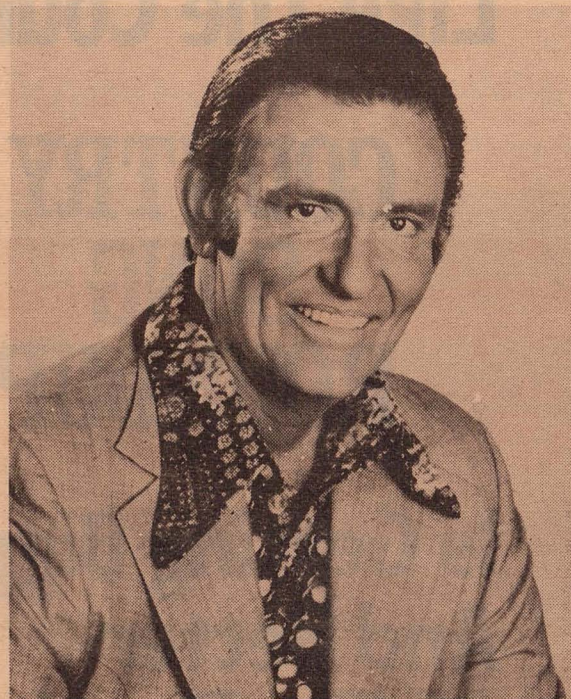




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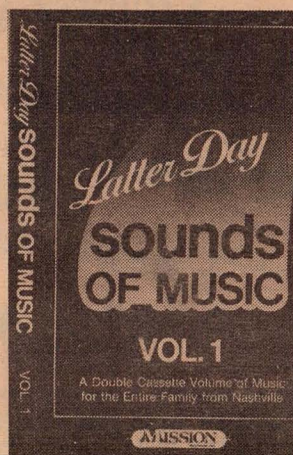


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